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WHITESBORO'S GOLDEN AGE.

BY D. E. WAGER.

[The following series of papers were prepared for, and most of them read before the Oneida Historical Society in 1881 and 1882. The first paper was read December 7, 1881.]

In 1705 the colonial authorities of New York, with the approval of the sovereign of Great Britain, granted to five persons some 30,000 acres of land, now known as the "Oriskany patent." The boundaries of that patent commence at the junction of Oriskany creek with Mohawk river, (where the present village of Oriskany is), and extend up the creek four miles, for a distance of two miles on each side of that stream; also, for a distance of two miles on each side of Mohawk river and up that stream far enough to include the present city of Rome. That was the first patent granted of lands in what is now Oneida county.

The second grant of lands in this county, by the same authorities, was made in 1734, and known as "Cosby's manor,"

The Village of Whitesborough was incorporated under that name by an Act of the Legislature passed March 26, 1813. The official name of its Post Office is still Whitestown. Whitesboro has long been the popular name of both. By an Act of the Legislature passed June 14, 1884, the corporate name of the village was changed to Whitesboro. For the above engraving of its seal (representing the wrestling match between the pioneer settler and an Oneida chief,) we are indebted to the courtesy of Mrs. B. W. Whitcher, the authoress of "A Few Stray Leaves in the History of Whitesboro," published May 31, 1884.

the western boundary of which was at the point where Sauquoit creek empties into the Mohawk river, at or near what is now the village of Whitesboro.

A glance at the map of Oneida county will show, that between the above two tracts of land, is a strip about two miles wide and six miles in length, and on both sides of Sauquoit creek and Mohawk river. There are about 6,000 acres of land in that strip of territory, and in 1736, the above authorities granted that parcel to Frederick Morris and twelve others, under the name of the "Sadachqueda patent;" it has been sometimes called and known as the "Morris tract." At the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, Hugh Wallace was the owner of that patent. He had been from 1769 to 1775 a member of the New York Legislative Council, and by reason of his adherence to the crown, the New York Legislature in October, 1779, passed an act confiscating his property, forfeiting it to the State, and ordering the Sadequada patent to be sold. In January, 1784, that tract was so sold, and John Taylor, Zephaniah Platt, Hugh White and others became the purchasers.

By an arrangement between the owners, they were to meet on the patent in the summer of 1784, survey it out, make a partition and divide the lands among themselves.

In pursuance of this plan, and for the further purpose of becoming a permanent settler in the then remote wilderness, Hugh White, in May, 1784, left his old home in Middletown, Connecticut, accompanied by three sons, a daughter and a daughter-in-law, and proceeded by water to Albany, where they were joined by another son who had gone overland with two yokes of oxen. From Albany the party went by land to Schenectady, and there a batteau was purchased, and while the family and their goods went up the Mohawk by boat, the oxen were driven along the road and Indian trail, and kept even pace by land.

Not far from May 20th, 1784, the party reached a place on the south side of Mohawk river, a few miles east of what is now Utica, known as "Shoemaker's." The charred remains of burned buildings and the desolated and deserted, but once cultivated fields, told a sad, but eloquent tale of the ravages which the war of the Revolution had made. With a commendable foresight the party stopped there long enough to plant one of the unoccupied fields, to corn. They then resumed their journey and reached their place of destination on Sauquoit creek, and at what is now the village of Whitesboro, on the 5th day of June, 1784. A temporary bark

shanty was erected for that summer's use, and until a more substantial structure could be built. Soon after a log house was erected about quarter to half of a mile westerly of Sauquoit creek, on a rise of ground which formed the west bank of the valley of that stream, and about half a dozen rods southerly of what is now Main street in that village. It was at that house that Lafayette stopped and shared the hospitalities of Hugh White in the fall of that year, during his attendance at the treaty with the Indians held at Fort Stanwix. In the partition of that patent Mr. White acquired title to about 1,500 acres, and his possessions embraced the site of Whitesboro and extended southerly to the south bounds of the tract.

During the season of 1784, Mr. White and his sons cleared off about four acres of land by chopping down the trees, but not by piling and burning them as now, but by rolling the logs off the embankment east of his house, and upon the low lands between it and Sauquoit creek. That clearing included the present "village green," the sites which were subsequently those of the court house and jail, and adjacent lands. In due time the male members of that family hoed and harvested the field of corn, which they had planted at "Shoemaker's" the May before, and that crop did good service for the next winter's supply of food and fodder.

In January, 1785, Hugh White returned to Connecticut for the rest of his family, and at once brought them to his new settlement on the banks of the Sauquoit. The family then consisted in all of fifteen persons, viz.: five sons, (two of them married,) three daughters, two daughters-in-law, and three grand children. Those were the pioneer settlers subsequent to the revolution, and then the only white settlement in the State west of what is now the village of Herkimer, formerly "Fort Dayton."

Old Montgomery County.

At that period of time, that settlement was in Montgomery county, which county then included all of the State west of the county of Albany. That county was divided into "districts," not into towns as now. The "German Flatts district" then included part of what is now Herkimer county, and thence to the northern, southern, and western boundaries of the State.

On the 7th of March, 1788, Montgomery county was organized into towns, and all that part of the State west of a north and south line drawn across the State, passing through Genesee street in Utica, was formed into the "Town of Whites Town." The territory

embraced in this town included about half the State, with a population, perhaps, of less than 200. The first town meeting was held at the tavern of D. C. White, in Whitesboro, son of Hugh White, April 6, 1789. The first general election held in the town in 1791, commenced at Cayuga bridge, then adjourned to Manlius, thence to Fort Stanwix, and closed up at Whitesboro.

Old Herkimer County.

In February, 1791, Herkimer was carved out of Montgomery county, and extended west to Ontario county, which had been taken off in 1789. By this act of 1791 it was provided that the courts of common pleas and of general sessions for Herkimer county, "should be held at the church in the town of Herkimer." The church thus alluded to then occupied the present site of the Dutch Reformed church in that village, on the corner diagonally across the street from the present court house. But two terms in each year were provided for by said act, and those terms to commence on Tuesday and end the Saturday following. The judges and justices of these courts and the supervisors of the several towns in Herkimer county were authorized to select the site, and the latter to raise money to erect a court house and jail. The site selected is the present one in Herkimer village, and the jail was placed in the story underneath the court house. Henry Staring, a plain Dutch farmer, but of much native ability and good strong sense, and who had rendered valuable service, and endured great suffering for his country, was appointed first judge. Jedediah Sanger, of New Hartford, Hugh White and Amos Wetmore, of Whitesboro, were made side judges. William Colbrath, of Fort Stanwix, was appointed sheriff, and Jonas Platt, of Whitesboro, county clerk. Work was soon commenced on the court house and jail, and an act was passed in January, 1793, authorizing the supervisors to raise £1,000 to defray the expenses already incurred in the erection of those buildings; by the same act the courts above mentioned were authorized to alternate "between the court house in the town of Herkimer, and such place in the town of Whitestown as said courts should order to be entered in their minutes;" and the sheriff was ordered to remove all the Herkimer county prisoners to the jail in that county from Montgomery county, on or before March, 1793. In pursuance of above act the January term of the court was held in 1794 in an unfinished "meeting

house," in what is now New Hartford, at which Judge Staring presided. That was the first court of record held within the limits of Oneida county, and was the same court where Sheriff Colbrath passed up to the judge a jug of gin as the court was about to adjourn for the day, in consequence of the absence of fire and the intense cold in the building. As that story has been so often told and so many times published, it need not be repeated here. In March, 1795, a law was passed authorizing the supervisors of Herkimer county to raise $720 to complete the court house and jail, and in March, 1797, they were further empowered to raise all funds necessary for that purpose.

While Jonas Platt was county clerk of Herkimer county, he kept the county clerk's office at Whitesboro, but when Oneida county was taken off in 1798, the Herkimer county clerk's office was ordered to be located at Herkimer. In 1804, that clerk's office was destroyed by fire, and with it, about all of the valuable books, records and papers.

Not long since I examined the clerk's office at Herkimer to gather material for this sketch; but that fire of 1804 had made sad havoc with the early records. In a dry goods box, promiscuously stowed away, were "declarations," "*Nars*," and other pleadings and legal proceedings, with the names of E. Clark, T. R. Gold, Jonas Platt and J. Kirkland, early members of the bar in this locality when it was part of Herkimer county, endorsed on such papers, but so bedimmed by time and damaged by fire as to make it extremely difficult to gather much information therefrom. I was able, however, to ascertain from scraps and fragments of scorched and half burned court calendars, minutes of the courts and other legal documents, that prior to 1794, the Herkimer courts were held in what is now the village of Herkimer; and that from and after the January term of the Common Pleas in 1794 (which term was held at New Hartford) until Oneida county was taken off in 1798, the county courts of Herkimer alternated between Herkimer village and "the school house near Hugh White's in Whitestown." That school house stood on the north-easterly side of what is now Main street in Whitesboro, and was the site subsequently occupied by the Academy, and now by the residence of Hon. C. M. Dennison.

In January, 1795, at a term of the Common Pleas held at the court house in Herkimer, a vote was taken by the judges and justices present, as to the place in Whitestown the next June term should be held, and the votes, as entered on the minutes of the

court, stood eleven for "the school house near Hugh White's," and two votes for "the meeting house near Jedediah Sanger." Those two votes were James Dean and James Steele. I did not find any other vote entered in detail upon the minutes, as to where the courts should be held. The June term of 1795, and the September and October terms of 1796 and 1797 and the January term of 1798 were held at said school house. The fact that the county clerk's office of Herkimer county, for the first seven years after that county was organized, was kept at Whitesboro, and was so kept for eighteen years after Oneida county was formed, and that the county courts were held there half the time, had much to do in attracting thither, at that early period, leading lawyers and prominent citizens and in giving to that village a start and prominence in the early history of the county.

Oneida County.

In March, 1798, Oneida county was formed, and its boundaries then extended to the north and south bounds of the State, and as far west as Onondaga county. By that act courts were directed to be held "at the school house near Fort Stanwix," which school house then stood in the southeast corner of the west park in Rome. A court house when built, was ordered by said act organizing the county, to be located within one mile of the fort. Jedediah Sanger was appointed first judge, Hugh White and three others, side judges. William Colbrath, who had been the first sheriff of Herkimer county, was made the first sheriff of Oneida, and Jonas Platt, who had been first county clerk of Herkimer county, was made the first county clerk of Oneida. Dominick Lynch, a large land-holder in Rome, donated to the county, May 21, 1800, for the purposes of court house and jail, the present site occupied by those edifices. In March, 1801, an act was passed providing for the keeping of Oneida county prisoners in the Herkimer county jail, but to be removed therefrom to Oneida county, as soon as the sheriff of the latter county should deem the jail directed to be built in Oneida county sufficiently finished for the safe keeping of prisoners. In April, 1801, Thomas Jenkins and H. L. Hosmer, of Hudson, and John Thompson, of Stillwater, and Derick Lane of Troy, were appointed commissioners to locate the court house and jail in Oneida County, and they selected the site which Mr. Lynch had deeded to the county. The Whitesboro people then made an effort to make that locality a half shire town of the county; for at that time Utica was quite an

insignificant place and the leading men of the county were located at Whitesboro. In September, 1801, Hugh White deeded to the county over an acre of ground in Whitesboro to belong to the county, so long as it was used for purposes of court house and jail, but to revert to him or his heirs, when not so used. At a term of the Common Pleas held at the school house in Rome, in December, 1801, Sheriff Brodhead reported that the jail at Whitesboro was sufficiently completed for the safe-keeping of prisoners, and the court ordered the Oneida county prisoners in jail at Herkimer to be removed to the jail at Whitesboro in January, 1802. In February, 1802, the supervisors of Oneida County were authorized to raise the further sum of $539 to complete the jail (without mentioning which jail), and in February, 1803, they were further empowered to raise $500 to complete the jail at Whitesboro, and in April of the same year courts were authorized to be held alternately at Rome and Whitesboro, and the commissioners who had been authorized to erect the Rome jail were empowered by that act to go on and "cause the doors of the jail lately built at Rome to be made and completed." In April, 1806, the legislature authorized the supervisors of Oneida County to raise $4,000 to erect two court houses, the one near the jail at Rome and the other near the jail at Whitesboro, and those two court houses, both made of brick, were soon after built on the sites which had been donated to the county. The Rome court house was burned in 1847, but the Whitesboro building yet stands, probably the oldest one in the State yet standing, erected for a court house.

In delving among the session laws of the last century, to find laws relative to the holding of courts, I found the following law, passed in February, 1788, the same session Whitestown was formed, which may be curious and of interest at the present day, as showing how carefully the bench was then guarded, right after the Revolution, lest some wealthy and influential outsider should sit thereon, and by his presence overawe judges and perhaps thwart or prevent justice. The act reads: "No person, little or great, shall sit upon the bench with the judges during their session, upon pain of fine and imprisonment; and said judges are charged that they do not suffer any person to sit with them on the bench in their session contrary to the intent of this act."

This preliminary sketch relative to the patents, to the organization of counties and towns, to the designation of county seats, and the erection of court houses and jails, and the holding of courts, seemed to be necessary for a better understanding of

some of the causes which gave to Whitesboro its start and importance in the early history of the county, and contributed to make it the abode of so many influential persons, so many learned and able lawyers, and so many prominent politicians and citizens. I have named the pioneer settler. He was a person of resolute will, great force of character, full of energy and enterprise, and with a clear and discerning mind. The fact that Hugh White, at the age of fifty-one years, with a large family, should break away from early associations and pleasant surroundings, and become a pioneer in such a remote wilderness as this part of the State then was, indicates pretty clearly the character of the man, and that he was a person of far-reaching sagacity to be able to discern what this section was destined to become. He at once set to work to improve and build up the neighborhood, to cause it to be the place for holding courts, and in various ways to make it attractive, so as to induce its settlement by the best class of citizens from his own State, as well as from other localities. The lawyers who early located in Whitesboro, were college bred and learned in the law, and the other citizens were generally persons of mark, and of more than ordinary prominence and ability. The ladies, too, who composed the families of those early settlers, were as a rule, educated and refined, and, of course, gave grace, culture and dignity to the circle in which they moved. In many respects the villages of Whitesboro and Canandaigua seem much alike. Both were small places. While Whitesboro had her Whites, Gold, Sill, Platt, Storrs and Breese, Canandaigua had her Grangers, Wadsworth, Spencer, Porter, Sibley, Phelps and Gregg, men of distinction and large influence in the State.

In March, 1790, Congress passed a law for taking a census of the inhabitants of the United States. Under that law the first enumeration of the people was made after the revolution, and from it, it appeared that there were in what is now Rome, in that year, some three or four families, and in what is now Utica, about fifteen families and one hundred persons. Whitesboro had twenty families and some one hundred and thirty inhabitants. Of this number sixty-one were males over sixteen years of age, twenty-five males under sixteen, and forty-four females. That census showed there were six hundred and eighty-nine families in the town of Whitestown and a total population of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

These papers are entitled "Whitesboro's Golden Age," and to show that Whitesboro had a golden age, and is justly entitled

to that name, and to all that may be said in praise of her prominent and worthy citizens, it will be essential to give a brief account of some of the persons who resided there, and who contributed to give it prominence and celebrity.

Hugh White and Family.

Hugh White and family occupy so large a place in the history of this State, that a full sketch of the various members would fill quite a volume. Even the merest outline will be quite too lengthy for a paper of this kind. Hugh White was one of the selectmen of Middletown from 1779 to 1783; he was commissary in the army during a portion of the Revolutionary war, and he was a man of means and of position, or he would not have been associated with such men as joined him in the purchase of Sadaqueda patent. At the time of his location in Whitesboro, this part of the State was a wilderness, the woods peopled with hostile Indians, the nearest white settlement twenty miles distant, and the nearest mill forty miles, (at Fort Plain). Mr. White, like Sir William Johnson and Rev. Samuel Kirkland and Judge James Dean, had the prudence and sagacity to conciliate and make friends with the Indians. The Oneidas adopted him into their tribe and he was a general favorite with all. He was one of the judges of the Herkimer Common Pleas when that county was organized in 1791, and held that office until Oneida county was formed seven years later, when he was appointed judge of that court for the latter county and held the office until 1804—fourteen years judge. During his life he placed his sons in comfortable circumstances about him by giving each a farm, locating them in relation to his own residence according to the priority of their ages—the eldest being the nearest, the youngest the farthest removed.

Judge White was the first settler after the Revolution, who dared to overleap the German settlements lower down on the Mohawk, and brave the dangers and the hardships of the western wilds. He lived to see the territory in which he settled, named after him as a town, and the vast wilderness, then inhabited only by savages, turned into cultivated fields and prosperous villages and become the abode of 300,000 persons, the forests and the red men replaced by seminaries of learning and temples of worship, the place where he settled and passed the remaining twenty-eight years of his life, become the leading village west of Albany, and the center of as refined and cultured a society, and

the home of as influential and intelligent a class of men as any in the state or nation. He died on the 17th of April, 1812, at the age of 79 years. His funeral was attended by his numerous descendants and connections, and by an unusual concourse of the most aged and respectable inhabitants of the county. The remains of this pioneer settler repose in a commanding position in the Whitesboro cemetery, and so long as history shall retain a memorial of the first settlement of this country, the name of Hugh White will be remembered with veneration and respect.

Mr. White had ten children, eight of whom grew to man or womanhood. Daniel C. White, the eldest of his sons, came (with his wife and a son then two years old) with his father in 1784 to settle on the Sadaqueda patent. He kept tavern directly across the road from his father's residence, on the brow of the hill, or rise of ground, east of and near the site now occupied by the residence of Mr. Babbitt, formerly of William Robbins. It was there his daughter, Esther White, was born in 1785; the first white child born in the State after the Revolution, west of the German Flats. She became in 1810 the wife of Henry R. Storrs. It was at that tavern the first town meeting was held in town, in April, 1789. Daniel C., died in 1800, and his widow kept the tavern after his death. Fortune C. White was another child of Daniel C. White. He was born at Whitesboro three years after the removal of his father there, and graduated at Hamilton College, which conferred on him in 1826, the honorary degree of master of arts. He read law with his brother-in-law, Henry R. Storrs, and the two subsequently became partners. In 1828, Mr. White was member of assembly from this county, and again in 1837. From 1840 to 1845, he was first judge of the Oneida Common Pleas, and was brigadier general of the New York State Militia. Except a residence of a few years at Yonkers, he was a resident all of his life, of the place where he was born. He died at Whitesboro in 1866, at the same age his grandfather, Judge Hugh White, was at his death.

Joseph White was another son of Judge Hugh White. He and his wife and his daughter Susan, then three months old, accompanied the pioneer settler to Whitesboro, in May, 1784. He was a farmer and settled on the flats, between his father's residence and Sauquoit creek, and died in 1827 at the age of sixty-six years. The daughter Susan, above mentioned, was the one taken to the house of the Indian Han Yerry, at Oriskany, to be kept over night, as related in Jones' Annals of Oneida County. Another

daughter of Joseph White was Abigail, the wife, but now the widow of Samuel Wilcox. She is yet living at Whitesboro, past ninety-two years of age, but with a good mind and memory for one of her years. She is the only one of those early born who has, up to this time, been a continuous resident of that village.* Henry White, a son of Joseph White, was born in Whitesboro, the same year Whitestown was organized; he was ambitious in his youth for the army or navy, and for the services he rendered his party in the political campaign of 1804, when he was but sixteen years old, in carrying political documents and dispatches, he was promised a cadetship; but as that promise was not fulfilled, he became a farmer. When the Utica and Schenectady Packet Boat Company was organized in 1822, after the completion of the Erie canal, he was appointed superintendent, and held that position for sixteen years, exhibiting great executive ability. He died in Utica in 1860, at the age of seventy-two. Joseph White had eleven children, five of them sons, and two of the latter died in infancy.

Hugh White, Jr., was another son of Judge Hugh White. For three years Hugh, Jr., was in the Revolutionary army, and for a time on board a privateer during that war. He was twenty-one years old when he accompanied his father to Whitesboro in 1784. He was a farmer, and lived near his father's residence, and had seven children. One of his sons was Canvass White, who served in the war of 1812, was one of the early engineers on the Erie canal, and was sent to England by the canal authorities to procure mathematical instruments and to make observations relative to canals. To him has been generally ascribed the credit of being the first discoverer of water lime cement, until that claim was so ably combatted in a paper prepared and read before this society in November last year by Hon. Samuel Earl. He died in Florida in 1834. Hugh White, brother of Canvass White, graduated at Hamilton College in 1823, at the age of twenty-five, read law with his relatives, Storrs & White, and afterwards in New York city, but soon turned his attention to other pursuits. From 1825 to 1830, he was a resident of Chittenango, and after that removed to Waterford, Saratoga County, and in 1844 was elected to Congress from that county, and was subsequently twice re-elected, serving three terms in that body.

Ansel White, was another son of Judge Hugh White. He accompanied the latter to Whitesboro in 1784. He was a farmer and had ten children. He died in that village in 1858, at the age

* Since deceased.

of ninety-three, having been a resident of that locality seventy-four years.

Philo White, another and the youngest son of Judge Hugh, was seventeen years old when he came with his father to Whitesboro. He was a farmer and also engaged more or less in merchandising; and he had nine children, four of them sons. One of the sons, (Hon. Philo White, LL. D.,) was born in Whitesboro, and acquired an academical education at the seminary in that village. His early inclinations were for the press, and before of age, he contributed much to the columns of the *Columbian Gazette*, a paper started in Rome in 1799, but removed to Utica in 1803. In 1820 he went to Washington, and while there and through the influence or acquaintance of his relative, Henry R. Storrs, then in Congress from this county, Mr. White went to North Carolina and became editor and proprietor of the *Western Carolinian*, and so continued until 1830, when he was appointed United States navy agent for the Pacific station. In 1834 he established the North Carolina *Standard* at Raleigh, and was elected State printer and his paper became the State paper. From 1837 to 1844 he was paymaster and purser in the United States Navy. Subsequently he removed to Wisconsin, was editor of several newspapers there, and in 1847 was member of the Territorial Legislature, and subsequently of the State Senate. He held other positions of influence in that State. In 1849 he was appointed United States Consul at Hamburg. In 1853 he was appointed *charge d' affaires* to the Republic of Ecuador, and the next year was raised to the grade of minister resident in that country, and there remained until 1858. Many years ago he returned to the village where he was born, where he now resides at the age of eighty-two, with a vigorous mind, respected by his neighbors and a very large and extensive circle of acquaintance. (Died February 15, 1883.)

General George Doolittle.

Within two years after Judge White left Middletown in 1784, there came from that same place to Whitesboro a young man, then less than twenty-six years old. Although a young man in years he had rendered good service to his country, for during the struggle which resulted in our independence, George Doolittle had served in the continental army. He was a shoemaker by trade, and carried his "kit of tools" with him while in the war, and with these he "cobbled" and mended the shoes of the soldiers,

and the money thus earned was carefully saved.. With his little capital he commenced at Whitesboro the shoe-making business, which expanded into that of a tanner and currier.

He was highly prosperous in business, accumulated a handsome property, and was greatly respected. He was for nearly thirty years supervisor of Whitestown, and such was the confidence of the taxpayers and his fellow-citizens, in his ability and integrity, that there was little or no opposition, to his repeated re-elections. His residence at the time of his death was just east of Sauquoit creek, in the brick house yet standing there, a few rods southerly from Main street. He was the first brigadier general of militia commissioned in the county, and a Roman who remembers General Doolittle sixty years ago, says he was a large handsome man and occupied a high position in the community where he lived. He died quite suddenly in 1825 at the age of sixty-five years leaving ten children and twenty-eight grandchildren. Two of his sons, Jessie W. and Charles R., were prosperous merchants in Utica, the former as early as 1805. One of his daughters became the wife of Benjmin S. Walcott; another married Herbert B. Mann, a son of Newton Mann, then of Whitesboro, but who subsequently moved to Jefferson county, and after whom Mannsville was named; another was the wife of William K. Tibbitts; another married Joseph Foster, and the youngest one married Charles Hammond, who was prominently connected with various railroad enterprises in the west. His wife was the survivor of all General Doolittle's ten children, and a few years ago she and her husband were residents of Chicago.

Amos Wetmore.

In 1786 Amos Wetmore, with a large family, came from Middletown, Conn., and settled on lands adjoining Mr. White's, but east of Sauquoit creek. He was the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land and was a prominent and enterprising citizen. In 1788, the first grist mill in the State west of the German Flats, was erected on his lands by John Beardsley, builder, at the joint expense of Mr. Wetmore, Hugh White and Mr. Beardsley—the latter being owner of half, and each of the others of one-quarter of the mill. The mill was but a short distance from Mr. Wetmore's residence, and a number of rods east of the Sauquoit. and the machinery of the mill was propelled by water taken in a canal from the creek. In the course of a few years the mill burned down, and Mr. Wetmore, in 1797, built a new one, he having in the

mean time become sole owner. There had been no actual purchase or deed of the water, or the right to use it, to Mr. Wetmore, and soon after the new mill was rebuilt, Mr. White insisted that unless Mr. Wetmore would build a dam and turn half of the water on a meadow contiguous to Sauquoit creek (owned by Hugh White, Jr.,) and become a Presbyterian and join the congregation in Whitesboro under the charge of Rev. Bethuel Dodd, he (the elder Hugh White) would cut the old dam and deprive Mr. Wetmore of the use of the water. Mr. Wetmore did not consent and the dam was cut accordingly, and Mr. Wetmore filed a bill in chancery against Hugh White, Sen. and Jr., claiming that a parol agreement or understanding between Wetmore and the elder White existed as to the water. Jonas Platt, a young man of less than thirty years of age, then located at Whitesboro, was solicitor for Mr. Wetmore, assisted by Abraham Van Vechten of Albany, one of the best real estate lawyers in the State. Thomas R. Gold, assisted by John V. Henry of Albany, also a bright legal luminary, was counsel for Mr. White. At the hearing in chancery, before Chancellor Lansing, the latter decided in favor of Mr. White, but on appeal to the Court of Errors, the latter court unanimously reversed the chancellor's decision and gave to Mr. Wetmore the permanent use of a portion of the water. The case after being in the courts seven years was decided in 1805, and the mill was for years known far and wide as "Wetmore's Mills." Mr. Wetmore was appointed one of the side judges of the Herkimer Common Pleas when that court was organized, and in 1798 when Oneida county was formed he was appointed one of the justices for the county. He died in 1808 at the age of sixty-seven years, leaving eight children and numerous descendants. Among his sons were Amos, Jehiel, Ezra, Asher and Parsons Wetmore; the latter married a daughter of Judge Hugh White.

Leavenworth, Wilcox, Pool, Barnard and Brainard.

Soon after Amos Wetmore's removal to the "Whitestown country," there came, (and prior to 1790), a number of other families from the New England States, who located at or near Whitesboro; but the order or the precise year of their coming can not now be ascertained. There were the families of Lemuel Leavenworth, Reuben and Ozias Wilcox, Simeon Pool, Moses Barnard Jeptha Brainard; all of the foregoing appear on the United States census of the town of Whitestown, taken in 1790; all, except Mr. Pool, I believe, came from Connecticut; Pool came from Massa-

chusetts. It would seem from recorded deeds in the county, that most, if not all of the above, located on farms outside of the village of Whitesboro, and hence, strictly speaking, out of the line of these sketches. A brief reference, however, to each will not be, perhaps, uninteresting. Mr. Leavenworth located east of Sauquoit creek and at his death, in 1825, was the owner of quite a farm. He held town offices, and was coroner of the county in 1798, 1799 and 1800; he left a number of children. Jeptha Brainard located west of the village, but after a few years he moved to Western in this county, and died in 1829, at the age of 83 years. He was the grandfather of the somewhat celebrated Dr. Daniel Brainard, of Rush Medical college. The Wilcox family became permanent residents of the town. Reuben was a soldier of the Revolution, and when he came to Whitesboro, bought a farm a mile west of the village, for which he gave two shillings per acre, and had to cut a road through the woods to get to it. He married a daughter of Joseph White, (and sister of Mrs. Abigail Wilcox,) and died in 1853 at the age of ninety years. He was father of Morris and Reuben Wilcox, whom present residents of Whitesboro will remember as being old residents of that place. Moses Barnard purchased considerable land in that locality and was one of the substantial citizens of the town; he died in 1811, at the age of sixty-one. Simeon Pool in 1793, owned some two hundred acres of land adjoining the Oriskany patent, west of Whitesboro. In that same year he had the contract for carrying the United States mails between Canajoharie and Whitesboro, which was evidence of the establishment of a post-office at the latter place, at least as early as that year. In the *Western Centinel* of 1794, then published at Whitesboro, is an advertisement of a store at "Pool's landing," (wherever that may be) in that town. It further appears from recorded deeds, that Simeon Pool was a resident of Whitestown in January, 1795, but that in December of the same year, he is described as being of German Flats. All that I can learn further of him is from Jesse R. Pool, who was a resident of Whitestown since his birth in 1806, on the farm where he resided until his death in September last; which farm was about a mile south of Oriskany. He informed me that his father (John H. Pool) was a cousin of Simeon; that he remembered hearing his father read or tell of letters he had received from Simeon Pool, then at Washington, or further south; giving an account of the arrest of Aaron Burr, in which arrest Simeon had a part, and of Burr's trial for treason in 1807. The Pools cordially disliked Burr, and hence those letters were full and interesting.

The grandfather of Jesse R. Pool came to Whitestown with another son between 1790 and 1800, and the two soon afterwards moved into what is now Jefferson county. Jesse R. stated they moved to Watertown. Hough's history of that county records the fact that Timothy Pool was one of the assessors and one of the overseers of highways of the town of Champion, the first year that town was organized in 1800; but what relationship that Timothy was to Simeon Pool, I can not state. The John Pool who was republican United States senator from North Carolina from 1867 to 1873, and who made a sensation in political circles by coming out for General Hancock in the presidential campaign of 1880, is supposed to be a descendant of the Simeon Pool above mentioned.

Dr. Elizur Moseley.

As early as 1790, there was living in Whitesboro, one who was the first physician, the first merchant, and the first postmaster of the place. How much sooner than 1790, Dr. Elizur Moseley came to that village I can not ascertain. The United States census of August of that year, shows he was there then. He came from Massachusetts, and his wife was a sister of Mrs. Captain Ebenezer Wright, who came to Wright's settlement in Rome, in 1789, father of the present E. W. Wright of that town. Dr. Moseley erected a dwelling on the corner of what is now Main and Clinton streets, in Whitesboro, and in due time erected a more substantial dwelling, quite a nice one for the times and place. He also erected a store near his dwelling, and later a tavern stand. My information is, that he had considerable of a ride as a physician when he first located in the place and the country was new and the population scattered, but years before 1820 he gave up about all of his practice, and up to about 1830 attended mainly to the duties of his store. He kept a varied assortment of goods and articles for sale, so much so, that his store was noted the country through as the place where everything was kept on hand and for sale. A bet was once made in the village bar-room of "the drinks for the crowd," that no one could go to Dr. Moseley's store and inquire for any article that he did not have for sale. The taker of the bet went over to the store and wanted to purchase a "goose yoke." The doctor, who knew nothing of the bet nor the object of the inquiry, very innocently asked which kind of a goose yoke was wanted, "the forked stick" or "the single goose yoke." The inquirer was non-plused at first, yet on second thought said he would take *both*. The doctor went or sent up into the garret and

brought down one of each kind, to the utter discomfiture of the loser of the bet, but to the great amusement of the winner, and the evident satisfaction of the crowd, which lingered at the bar-room until they got their share of the stakes. It has been heretofore stated that Simeon Pool carried the mails in 1793 between Canajoharie and Whitesboro; that is good evidence that there was a post-office there as early as the latter year; but tradition has it that a post-office was established in Whitesboro in 1790, and that Elizur Moseley was the first postmaster of the place. A recent letter of inquiry to the post-office department brought back the answer that a fire had destroyed earlier records, but that it appeared from records then in the office that in January, 1795, Elizur Moseley was postmaster of Whitesboro, and was such until he was succeeded in 1825 by William G. Tracy. When he ceased to be postmaster of that village, it was stated in the newspapers of the day, that he had been longer in that service than any other postmaster in the United States. When Oneida county was formed Dr. Moseley was appointed one of the justices of the new county, and in 1799 he was made the second sheriff. He practiced medicine and carried on the mercantile business, as before stated, until about 1830. His wife died about ten years before. About 1832 he sold his residence in Whitesboro to Dr. F. B. Henderson, and also sold his store, and about that time went to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Morrison, in Penn Yan, where he died about 1835. He was about five feet ten inches high, and is represented as being polite and affable in his manners, courteous in his conduct and bearing and careful not to say anything to hurt the feelings of others; he was much liked and respected by all. He reared a family of five children, all daughters but one. In the Whitesboro cemetery is a lot, surrounded by a substantial iron fence, and within the enclosure are a number of mounds, all thickly overgrown with briars and brambles; there are no monuments nor headstones to tell whose remains rest beneath the soil, nor anything to indicate whose lot that fence encloses, save the single word of "Moseley" upon the iron gate.

William A. Moseley was the only son of Dr. Moseley; he graduated at Yale college in 1816, read law with Gold & Sill, and soon after his admission to the bar, and about 1819, he located in Buffalo, and there became a prominent lawyer and citizen. In 1835, he was elected to the Assembly from Erie county, and ten years later he was elected to Congress. Late in life he

married the widow of Bela Coe, of Buffalo; she was a daughter of the late P. C. J. DeAngelis, formerly of Trenton, in this county. William A. Moseley died in New York city in 1877, leaving no descendants. Those who remember him well forty years ago, inform me that he was tall and of commanding figure, (six feet in height,) of graceful and polished manners, and of fine literary tastes and acquirements, and a fair lawyer. I am told that his portrait adorns the walls of the court room of the General Term at Buffalo. The eldest daughter of Dr. Moseley, (Mary Ann,) became the wife of Julius Guiteau. Another daughter became the wife of Roderick N. Morrison, who was a lawyer in Utica, and at one time law partner in that city of the late Thomas H. Flandrau, and later of Benjamin F. Cooper; on the death of his first wife, Mr. Morrison married another daughter of Dr. Moseley, and not far from 1835 lived in Penn Yan, and later in New York city. In 1850 he was living in San Francisco, and was probate judge of that city, where he died in 1856. One of Mr. Morrison's sons was named after Dr. Moseley; he was lieutenant in the army, as a volunteer, during the Mexican war. As a romance of his life, a relative of his informs me that it became the lieutenant's duty to attend to the execution of a soldier sentenced to be shot for desertion. A brother of the soldier thus executed swore vengeance against Lieutenant Morrison for his part in the affair, and some years after, that brother and the lieutenant met in the streets of San Francisco, and with little or no warning, the brother drew his pistol and shot Lieutenant Moseley Morrison dead in the streets of that city. Another daughter of Dr. Moseley married Valentine Morris, son of Judge Morris, of Butternuts, Otsego county; he was a midshipman in the United States Navy when young, and later in life had charge of the property of the United States at Sacketts Harbor, where his wife died not many years ago. The daughter who married Julius Guiteau outlived her husband and died some twenty years ago, and her remains are in the Whitesboro cemetery.

As I shall have considerable to say in relation to those lawyers located in Whitesboro prior to 1800, and to make reference to the Circuit Courts, and Courts of Oyer and Terminer held in that village up to 1820, it may add interest to give a brief statement of the condition of the judiciary and the mode of obtaining admission to the bar, at the time the pioneer lawyers made Whitesboro their home.

In 1790 there were but three Supreme Court judges in the State,

and they held all the general terms in the State, all of the Circuit Courts, and Courts of Oyer and Terminer in the respective counties. The salary of the chief justice was $750 per annum, that of the two associate judges $500 each. There was not then, nor for many years thereafter, a single text book on law, by an American author—not any work on the practice in the courts—not a volume of reported decisions, nor any "rules" of the courts to govern the judges or to guide the practitioners. There were no degrees among lawyers as in later years, such as attorneys, counselors and solicitors. Before persons could be admitted to the bar, they were required to serve seven years' clerkship with a practicing attorney, or else, three years of such clerkship and pursue classical studies for four years—making seven years, either way. They were then admitted, not as now by courts after an examination, but licensed by the governor of the State, on the recommendation of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and on signing the "roll for attorneys," then kept in the Supreme Court clerk's office in the city of New York, and on taking the following oath:

"I, ————, do solemnly, without any mental reservation or equivocation whichsoever, swear and declare that I renounce and abjure all allegiance and subjection to all and every foreign king, prince, potentate and state, in all matters ecclesiastical, as well as civil, and that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the State of New York, as a free and independent State.

I ———— do swear that I will truly and honestly demean myself in the practice of an attorney according to the best of my ability.

On that "roll," and underneath above oath, are the signatures of some thirty or forty attorneys, with the date of subscription opposite, or underneath each signature. The earliest date on that "roll" is January 12, 1790. Over the date of April 24, of same year, is the autograph of DeWitt Clinton; opposite the date of May 1, 1790, is the autograph of John V. Henry, who became one of the legal luminaries of the State; opposite the date of August 5, 1790, is the autograph of Francis Bloodgood, who became afterwards a prominent citizen of Utica, State senator, county clerk of this county from 1802 to 1813, and again from 1815 to 1821; opposite the date of October 20, 1790, is the name of Henry W. Livingston, who also was a resident of Utica from 1808 to 1814.

Jonas Platt.

On the roll and opposite the date of July 27, 1790, is the autograph of one who, at that date, was but a month and a few days past his twenty-first birthday, and who in a few months thereafter, took up

his residence in Whitesboro, and thereby became the pioneer lawyer in the State west of Johnstown, and who also in due time made his impress upon the little hamlet where he settled and subsequently rose to eminence in the county and State. That pioneer young lawyer was Jonas Platt. He was born at Poughkeepsie, and read law with Richard Varick, attorney general of the State. His father was Zephaniah Platt, a prominent, wealthy and influential citizen of that locality, who became, in 1784, one of the owners of a tract of land in Clinton county, in this State, bounded east by Lake Champlain and extending westerly on both sides of the Saranac river, so as to make seven miles square; Plattsburgh was named after him. Besides the partnership which Zephaniah Platt had in the Clinton county lands, and in the Sadaqueda patent, as heretofore mentioned, he was also interested in lands in the "Military tract," in the western part of the State. For three years he was delegate to the Continental Congress, a member of the committee of safety, twice a deputy to the Provincial Congress of New York, State senator from 1778 to 1784, member of the council of appointment in 1778 and again in 1781, and first judge of Dutchess county from 1781 to 1795. Jonas Platt had not only the wealth and influence of his father to back him, but the same year that he located in Whitesboro, he married into the wealthy and aristocratic Livingston family of Poughkeepsie; his wife was a sister of the Henry W. Livingston, above mentioned, and aunt of the second wife of Judge Smith Thompson, of the Supreme Court of this State, and later of the United States Supreme Court. It was between August 1, 1790, and November 12, of that year, that Jonas Platt became a resident of Whitesboro, as evinced by the facts, that the United States census taken August, 1790, does not contain his name, while a deed to him of lands in Whitestown, recorded in the county clerk's office, bearing date November 12, 1790, describes him "of Montgomery county,' as Whitesboro was at that date. It is quite likely, that the large interest which the father of Jonas Platt then had in the Sadaqueda patent, and the fact that the tide of emigration was then setting in strongly to the "Whitestown country," and that in all human probability a new county would be soon organized in this part of the State, with new county offices to be filled, had much to do with the son's making Whitesboro his future home. Mr. Jonas Platt became the owner of quite a parcel of land in that patent, by a deed from his father, and he and his wife went to housekeeping in a log cabin on the corner of what is now Main and Mohawk streets in that village.

In less than six months thereafter Herkimer county was organized, and the next day after such organization Jonas Platt was appointed its first county clerk, and held that office for seven years, and kept it and its records at Whitesboro. In 1795 he was elected to the assembly from the district then composed of the counties of Herkimer and Onondaga. On the 15th of March, 1798, Oneida county was taken off from Herkimer, and four days thereafter Mr. Platt was appointed clerk of this new county, holding and keeping the office and the records at Whitesboro until 1802—making a clerkship of eleven years for the two counties. The same year that he was appointed county clerk of Oneida, and within a few weeks thereafter, he was nominated by the federalists for Congress, for the district then composed of the counties of Montgomery, Herkimer, Oneida and Chenango, and in April was elected. Up to this time he was the first lawyer, the first county clerk and the first congressman who resided within what is now Oneida county. Hence it is apparent that within the first decade after Jonas Platt's removal to Whitesboro, he rose rapidly to prominence, and became an important factor in the affairs of the county and in the politics of the State. In the mean while his law business increased, and he must have attained considerable distinction at the bar, for I find that in 1807 he and William W. Van Ness of Albany, both federalists, were brought forward as candidates for the vacant judgeship of the Supreme Court, occasioned by the resignation of Brockholst Livingston to accept the appointment of judge of the United States Supreme Court. The federal members of the appointing power were at first equally divided between Platt and Van Ness, but after consultation and comparison of views, Mr. Van Ness was appointed, and Mr. Platt had to bide his time. It was not long, however, he had to wait. An election of State senators was to take place in April, 1809, and the federal party made great efforts that year to carry the legislature, by nominating their best and most popular men. It was the next year after President Madison's election, an "off year" to the national administration, and at a time when the people, especially in the country districts, were much excited and dissatisfied with the "embargo act" and other measures of that administration. Mr. Platt and two other federalists were nominated by their party for State senators in the "western district," then composed of all of the State west of Montgomery county. Elections were then held in April, and a property qualification required. That "western district" had not elected a Federal Senator since 1799, and there was but little faith that Mr.

Platt and his associates could be elected. Election came, and all three federalists were elected by three hundred and ninety-one majority. This was indeed a great surprise all through the State, and seemed at once to bring Jonas Platt prominently to the front as the federal candidate for Governor in 1810. The town of Whitestown, always strongly federal as long as that party existed, gave Jonas Platt for senator and one of his associates three hundred and fifty-four votes and his other associate three hundred and fifty-three votes, while it gave the opposition ticket one hundred and fifty votes; the towns which now constitute Oneida county gave that federal ticket over eight hundred majority. The first session of the Senate after Mr. Platt's election did not begin until January 30, 1810, yet twenty-five days before that time a federalist meeting was held at Albany, presided over by Abraham Van Vechten, at which Jonas Platt was nominated for governor. It was pretty well understood at that time that Governor Daniel D. Tompkins would be renominated as Mr. Platt's competitor, and he was so renominated in just one month from that time, and in April thereafter, was a second time elected, his majority over Mr. Platt in the State being about six thousand five hundred. At that election the "western district" returned to its old love and gave Mr. Tompkins a goodly majority. The town of Whitestown, which gave in 1807 Mr. Tompkins one hundred and forty-four votes and Morgan Lewis, his opponent, three hundred and twenty-two, at this election in 1810 gave Mr. Tompkins one hundred and sixty-one votes and Mr. Platt three hundred and seventy-two; and right here is a good place to mention the votes given for Governor in Whitestown from 1807 to 1818, as showing how slight the increase, and how little they varied, during that decade. In 1813 Governor Tompkins ran the third time and received in that town one hundred and sixty-one votes, (the exact number he received when he ran against Jonas Platt,) while Rufus King, his opponent, received three hundred and sixty-four votes, or eight less than Mr. Platt received. In 1816, when Tompkins ran the fourth time, he received one hundred and forty votes, or four votes less than he received 1807, when he ran the first time, while Stephen Van Rensselaer, his opponent, received three hundred and fifty-five.

Mr. Platt was a prominent member of the Senate and took an active part in the project for the construction of the Erie canal. His term expired in April, 1813, and the next February there was a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court by reason of the

promotion of Judge Smith Thompson to the Chief Judgeship. A majority of the federalists favored Jonas Platt for that vacancy. His competitor was Richard Riker, of New York city, therefore, a strong "Clintonian." The federalists were in the minority in the appointing Board, but a "Clintonian" member of that Board cast his vote for Jonas Platt and the latter was thereby appointed judge, February 23, 1814. It was charged at that time that DeWitt Clinton's secret influence was exerted in favor of Mr. Platt and against Mr. Riker; at any rate, Mr. Riker seemed so to think, for after that appointment he ceased to be a friend of DeWitt Clinton. Although Mr. Platt was appointed judge in February, 1814, it was nearly four years thereafter before he held a Circuit Court in this county. The first term he held in the county was at Whitesboro, commencing December 17, 1817, and lasting ten days; there were over two hundred and fifty causes on the calendar, and one hundred and one jury trials. He held court almost every night until midnight and commenced early each morning. He "pushed things" somewhat after the manner of the late Judge Gridley. The next term he held in the county was at Rome, in June, 1818, lasting four days, and thirty-four jury trials disposed of. In November of same year, he held a Circuit at Utica, and disposed of seventy-two jury trials. The nature of those jury trials the records of the court do not show. In June, 1821, he held another term at Rome, and the next November at Utica, and those five terms were all he held in this county while on the bench. He held courts, however, in other counties of the State, and did his share of the general term business. The newspapers of that period speak of him as an indefatigable worker. When he went upon the bench in 1814, there were about a dozen volumes, all told, of reported decisions, and when he left it about ten more volumes were added to the list. In 1821, and while yet judge, he was elected from this county to the constitutional convention. He was a strong federalist, and was not imbued with the progressive views then taking hold of the people. While a member of that convention he not only spoke and voted against some of the liberal features of the constitution, but did not sign the instrument after its adoption by the convention. That constitution went into effect January 1, 1823, and put an end to the term of the old judges. Governor Joseph C. Yates sent the names of the judges of the old Supreme Court to the Senate for confirmation as the judges of the new Supreme Court, but that body rejected them, and thereupon Judge Platt was retired to private life.

When Judge Platt left the bench he had lost most of his property by reason of his large expenses and the smallness of his salary. He at once resumed the practice of law with all the industry, ardor and energy of his younger years. He removed to Utica about 1824, and in company with his son opened a law office in that then village. Not far from 1828, he removed to New York city to practice law, and did there a fair share of business. He was one of the three arbitrators (the other two being merchants, I believe) in the Greek frigates litigation, out of which arose great excitement at the time, and discussion in the newspapers, by reason of the decision in the case and the fees charged. Time and "the sober second thought of the people" entirely vindicated the character, integrity and fair fame of Judge Platt. Failing health compelled him to relinquish his law business, and soon after 1830 he removed to a farm in the town of Peru, near Lake Champlain, in Clinton county, and there he engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died very suddenly February 22, 1834, at the age of 65, of disease of the heart. The Clinton county bar held a meeting on the occasion of his decease and passed suitable resolutions. A meeting of the Oneida county bar was held March 10, 1834, at Whitesboro, the Common Pleas being then in session. General Joseph Kirkland was chairman and Chester Hayden secretary. A committee on resolutions, composed of Nathan Williams, J. A. Spencer, Theodore Sill, J. H. Ostrom, F. C. White and Hiram Denio, reported a series of resolutions, expressive of their high opinion and regard for deceased and regret at his death, and resolving to wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days. Nathan Williams, in a speech, paid high tribute to the worth of the departed, and gave a brief sketch of some of the incidents in his life. In the meridian of life, Judge Platt embraced the doctrines of the gospel, and was a meek and devoted Christian, making open profession of the faith that was in him. He died as he had lived, in peace and charity with all, leaving not an emeny behind him, but rather a multitude of ardent friends who lamented his death and mourned that he was gone. Those now living, who remember Judge Platt as he was on the bench and after he left it, describe him as about five feet eight inches high, medium size, dark eyes, of quiet demeanor, courteous in his manners, dignified, yet affable in his bearing, social in his intercourse with others, a close student and a diligent worker. The reports of the Supreme Court, after he left the bench, showed that he had a fair share of business as counsel from

all parts of the State. His life had been one of incessant activity, and during the forty years that he had been among the most prominent of the actors on life's busy stage, he had witnessed important changes in the country at large, but more especially in the locality where he commenced his professional career. The log cabin where he and his wife commenced housekeeping, gave place in a few years to the fine mansion yet occupying the site, and the young saplings which his thrifty and industrious hands planted near a century ago, are now the stately and magnificent trees which shade and beautify the grounds and ornament the village. He was the first president of the Oneida Bible society, in 1810, and was such for four years, and again from 1824 to 1828.

Judge Platt had eight children—two sons and six daughters, all born in Whitesboro. The eldest son was Zephaniah; he graduated in 1815 from Hamilton college, read law, was admitted to practice, and became his father's law partner in Utica, after the latter left the bench. When Judge Platt removed to New York, the son located in Michigan, and was Attorney-General of that State. In 1868 he removed to South Carolina, was appointed a judge of one of the courts in that State, and died at Aiken in 1871, at the age of seventy-five years. Henry Platt, the other son, attended the school of Mr. Rawson, in Whitesboro, where he was a classmate of John Stryker, of Rome and Charles Tracy of New York; he engaged in mercantile pursuits, removed to New York city, and died many years ago. In the Whitesboro cemetery are three little mounds, side by side, but with no enclosure surrounding them. The time-worn and faded headstones tell us they are the graves of three of the daughters of Jonas and Helen Platt—the one their first, and another their last born, all three dying before 1811. The other three daughters of Judge Platt reached maturity. One became the wife of Truman Parmele, for many years a resident of Utica and among its respected and worthy citizens. Her name was Helen, after her mother. Susan was another; she became the first wife of Richard R. Lansing, after whom the capital of Michigan is named. He was a prominent citizen of Utica, and a nephew of Chancellor Lansing. After the death of his first wife, which occurred not far from 1835, R. R. Lansing married her cousin, the widow of Judge Smith Thompson. Cornelia, another daughter, was engaged to be married to Rev. Theodore Spencer, son of Chief-Justice Ambrose Spencer. She was east on a visit, but reaching Albany on her way home, sickened and died but a short time before the day fixed for the

wedding. She died May 27, 1821, at the age of twenty-two years. Those now living who remember her inform me she was a beautiful, highly educated and accomplished young lady. Theodore Spencer died nearly fifty years after his first love, yet the remains of both repose near each other, in the rural cemetery of the village where she was born.

Elias K. Kane.

John, Charles, Elisha and Elias Kane were brothers. They were as enterprising business men, and their family connections as influential and as highly respected as any in the State. They were cousins to Chancellor Kent, and one of their sisters married into the wealthy and aristocratic Van Rensselaer family, while another sister was the wife of Joseph C. Yates, who was judge of the Supreme Court of this State from 1808 to 1823, and the first governor of the State under the constitution of 1821. One of the above Kanes was grandfather of Dr. Kane, the celebrated Arctic explorer. In August 1791, Moses Barnard of Whitesboro conveyed to the above named Kane brothers five acres of land in Whitesboro, east of but next to Sauquoit creek, and there Elias Kane carried on business as merchant at the period above named. He was father of Elias Kent Kane, who was born in Whitesboro about 1795. The son was a graduate of college and then read law. When he was 20 years of age he settled in Illinois, and, in 1818, was a member of the convention which formed the first constitution for that State; when the State government was organized, he was appointed the first Secretary of State, although but twenty-three years of age. He was subsequently elected to the State legislature and, in 1825, elected to the United States Senate, and, at the end of his term, re-elected. When Congress assembled in December, 1835, Mr. Kane had hardly recovered from a severe attack of fever contracted at his home in Illinois; the ride over rough and muddy roads to Washington, in an inclement season of the year, brought on another fit of sickness, and he died at his father's residence in Washington, December 12, 1835, at the early age of forty, and within five days after Congress had assembled. His loss was greatly deplored.

Thomas R. Gold.

Less than two years after Jonas Platt became the pioneer lawyer of Whitesboro, there came to the same place another lawyer. He

was an older and an abler lawyer than Mr. Platt, and was the second one who settled in that little hamlet. At the time of his coming he was twenty-eight years old and had a wife, and a daughter. When twenty-two years old he had graduated at Yale College, soon after read law and was admitted to practice in the State of Connecticut. One of the grantees named in the Charter Oak charter of Connecticut was Nathan Gold, who had not long before emigrated to Connecticut from Edmundsburg, England. A descendant of that Nathan Gold was Rev. Hezekiah Gold, for thirty years Presbyterian clergyman at Cornwall, Connecticut. A son of that clergyman was Thomas Ruggles Gold, the second lawyer who located at Whitesboro. His residence and law office were on the northerly side of Main street west of the Presbyterian church. It is the place where Mrs. Alden now or lately resided. Mr. Gold seems to have taken at once front rank in his profession, and to have had all the business he could attend to. The earliest Court records in the county clerk's office at Herkimer, show his name oftener than any other attorney, and the reports of the Court prior to the time when Storrs, Talcott and Maynard came to the bar, show, I think, that he had more business before the higher Courts than any other lawyer in central New York. The fact that in 1796, Mr. Gold was elected State senator, and three years later appointed assistant attorney general for the district then composed of the counties of Herkimer and Otsego, show the estimation in which he was held. He was a good scholar, a close law student and a hard worker. His mind was clear and analytical, and his mode of presenting facts to the jury, or questions of law to the Court in banc, was earnest, forcible and somewhat vehement. He was well read in the fundamental principles both of legal and equitable jurisprudence, and hence was able to cope with the best lawyers in the land, not only in the discussion of legal questions and those relating to chancery practice and equity principles, but in the trial of jury causes. Mr. Gold was about six feet high, well proportioned and of large frame, and weighed about 200 pounds, He was wonderfully near sighted, and the unusually large gold spectacles, which he procured from London, are yet preserved as a relic by his grand daughter, Miss Frost. In the first murder trial in the county after it was organized, Mr. Gold was the prosecuting attorney. A woman of the town of Augusta had on election day, April 29, 1798, shot her husband and he died the next day. She was indicted in May and tried June 5, 1798, before Judge James Kent at a court held at Rome, and convicted and senteneed to be

hung the 29th of the same month, and her body to be given to Dr. Hull, of Augusta, for dissection. She hung herself the night before the day fixed for her execution, in her cell in the Herkimer county jail, where the Oneida county prisoners were then kept. The above case, and the others which are cited, will show how swiftly punishment followed after crime in those days. In 1801, at a court held at Rome in June by Judge Kent, Mr. Gold was the prosecuting officer in another murder trial. This was the case of a man killing his wife with a poker in Rome. The murder was committed February 24, 1801, the man was tried June 16, 1801, convicted and sentenced to be hung August 28, 1801. He was so executed on a gallows erected on the hill just back of Whitesboro. In 1807, Mr. Gold defended a man for poisoning his wife in Madison county. It was the next year after that county was organized, and the first murder trial in the county. The late Judge Nathan Williams was the prosecuting officer. The man was a singing master and had poisoned his wife, that he might marry one of his pupils with whom he had fallen in love. The offense was committed April 6, 1807, and at the first term of the court thereafter, commencing July 3, 1807, the prisoner was indicted, and the trial was set down for 6 A. M. the next day, July 4th. Judge William W. Van Ness presided, and it was his first court after his appointment a month before, when he had Jonas Platt for a competitor. The trial took place in a barn in the town of Sullivan, as Madison county then had no court house. Dr. Francis Guiteau, then of Utica, was one of the witnesses for the people. The prisoner was convicted and hung in August thereafter. In December, 1817, at a court held at Whitesboro, presided over by Judge Platt, the first he held in this county, there were five murder trials, in which Gold and F. C. White defended the prisoners. Those were remarkable and noted cases. A number of prisoners (the defendants among the number) were confined in the Rome jail, then constructed of hewn timbers, dovetailed and fastened together with thick planks. The prisoners set the jail on fire in August, 1817, in hopes of escaping in the confusion that would follow. They waited too long, however, before giving the alarm, and the result was, one of the prisoners was suffocated to death. There was a crack in the door, where a breath of fresh air could be obtained, and to that all the prisoners crowded, pushing and fighting for the place, and trampling each other under foot in the struggle for life. Help came at last, but not until most of the prisoners were nearly dead. They were

taken out of the cells like so many corpses, and placed upon the grass in the open air to recover, if possible. Old residents of Rome speak of the scene as the most ghastly they ever witnessed. Five of the prisoners were convicted of murder, and sentenced to be hung in February thereafter. The coffins were made and the gallows erected in Rome. The prospect of witnessing the novel spectacle of five persons being hung at one time was the means of bringing to Rome a large concourse of persons to witness the executions. But a few hours before the time for the executions, a commutation to imprisonment for life, came from Governor DeWitt Clinton. There was another trial which took place before Judge Platt, the next year, and in which Mr. Gold was engaged. Although not a criminal one it was a case of much importance and excited much interest. It was an action brought by Alvin Bronson against Melancthon T. Woolsey, to recover the value of a schooner lost in the war with Great Britain, at the time the British captured Oswego, May 6, 1814. The vessel was owned by the plaintiff, but was employed by the defendant, then an officer in the United States navy, for the transportation of ordinance and military stores from Oswego to Sackett's Harbor. The defendant had ordered those in charge of the schooner in case the British succeeded in carrying Oswego, to sink the vessel and her cargo. The vessel was sunk in about eight feet of water, the deck remaining above water. The vessel was not sunk so deep but that the British troops captured and raised it, and carried the vessel away and made Mr. Bronson a prisoner. Judge Platt charged the jury that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, although the defendant was acting for the government, and the jury found a verdict of $3,830; but the general term set this verdict aside. Popple & Beach of Oswego, were attorneys, and Mr. Gold counsel, for plaintiff, and F. C. White and Nathan Williams for defendant. Mr. Bronson was afterwards State Senator and one of the "immortal seventeen;" he died at Oswego about a year ago at the age of ninety-nine years. Mr. Woolsey was afterwards commodore in the United States navy.

In 1800, Mr. Gold formed a law partnership with Theodore Sill, whose accomplished sister he married, and the law firm of Gold & Sill for the quarter of a century of its existence was as widely and favorably known as any in the State. Persons desiring to pursue legal studies, sought that office from every part of the State. A descendant of Mr. Gold writes me, that at one time there were thirty law students in that office. Among those who read law there

were Henry R. Storrs, S. A. Talcott, H. K. Jerome, Francis Granger, Vincent Mathews, Halsey Townsend, William A. Moseley, Richard R. Lansing, Ichabod C. Baker and John Stryker. As deeply as Mr. Gold was engaged in law business, he devoted time to politics and to holding offices. Besides being State Senator and assistant attorney general he was in 1800 member of the council of appointment. In 1804 he ran for Congress in the district then composed of Oneida, Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties, but was beaten by Nathan Williams. In 1807 he was elected to the assembly.

In 1808 Mr. Gold was elected to Congress over Joshua Hathaway of Rome. In 1810, he ran again for Congress and was elected over Thomas Skinner of Utica, a brother-in-law of Judge Nathan Williams. In April, 1812, the last two named again ran for Congress, and Mr. Gold was elected, but the next June, Congress changed the congressional districts, making Oneida county and what is now Otsego, a district, and ordering another election to take place in December, 1812. At that election Morris S. Miller of Utica and George Brayton of Western, were competitors, and it resulted in the election of Mr. Miller. In 1814, Mr. Gold was again elected to Congress by about 700 majority, over Nathan Williams, and that seemed to end Mr. Gold's political career, so far as holding office was concerned. I have heretofore mentioned Mr. Gold's near-sightedness. I am informed that late one night, he was returning home on horseback from the country, and during his absence the heavy rains and swollen waters of Sauquoit creek had carried off the planks of the bridge which he had to cross. He did not see what had occurred, but his sure-footed and faithful pony did, and carried the rider safely over by walking on one of the stringers. It was not until the next day that Mr. Gold learned of his narrow escape. Another informant says it was Dr. Moseley who had that adventure; he had it from the doctor's own lips. I give both the benefit of a hearing.

Mr. Gold died of paralysis quite suddenly October 25, 1827, at the age of sixty-three years. A meeting of the Utica bar was held presided over by General Joseph Kirkland, at which appropriate resolutions were adopted. The widow of Mr. Gold died at Whitesboro, July 18, 1852, at the age of eighty-seven years. There were five children, two sons and three daughters. Theodore S. Gold was a pupil in Mr. Haisey's school at Whitesboro, graduated from Hamilton College in 1816, followed mercantile pursuits and was for a while a partner in Utica of Jesse W. Doolittle, a son

of another of Whitesboro's early settlers. For several years he was editor of the *Oneida Whig*, and in 1837 was mayor of Utica. In 1849, he like his father had a stroke of paralysis, from which he never fully recovered. He died in Utica in 1867, at the age of sixty-seven. His wife was a daughter of James S. Kip, three times sheriff of this county—in 1804, again in 1808, and again in 1811. A daughter of Theodore S. Gold became the wife of Andrew Dexter, a son of S. Newton Dexter. The other son of Thomas R. Gold was named after him. He too was a merchant, and did business as such in Whitesboro in company with B. W. Raymond, whose sister T. R. Gold, Jr., married. He died in October, 1846, at the age of thirty-seven. The eldest of Thomas R. Gold's children was Harriet L.; she was two years old when her parents moved to Whitesboro; she became the wife of Rev. John Frost; she died in Whitesboro in August, 1873, at the age of eighty-three years, having been a resident of that village for eighty-one years. The other daughters became Mrs. Walton of Schenectady and Mrs. Peck of Brooklyn.

William G. Tracy.

In December, 1793, there came to Whitesboro, from Norwich, Connecticut, to engage in mercantile pursuits, a person who by his integrity and fair dealing in all transactions with his fellow-men, won a reputation as a citizen and merchant second to no other in central New York, and I may add in the State. William G. Tracy is the person alluded to. He was then but twenty-five years of age, and I believe he was the next merchant in the place after Mr. Kane. His wife was a sister of the late Henry and George Huntington of Rome, and the youngest daughter of Hon. Benjamin Huntington of Connecticut, judge of the Supreme Court of that State, one of the committee of safety during the war of the Revolution, member of the Continental and of the first Congress under the United States Constitution. Mr. Tracy's residence in Whitesboro was a little westerly of that of Judge Platt, and his store was nearly opposite on the other side of the street; and there for over thirty-five years he carried on his business; and no store in central New York had a larger or better class of customers or was more exact, fair and correct in all its dealings. Mr. Tracy was also connected with the industrial interests of the county and a public spirited citizen. His politics were of the federal school, and although firm and decided, he was not offensive in the expression of his views.

He had the entire confidence of both political parties, as evidenced

by the fact that he was for twenty years treasurer of this county, placed there many times by the political party to which he was opposed. He was first appointed to that office in 1810, again in 1811, the third time in 1813, and each year thereafter until his death. In August 1825, he was appointed postmaster of the village to succeed Dr. Elizur Moseley, the second postmaster of of the place, and he held that office until he died. From 1811 to 1830, he was treasurer of the Oneida Bible Society, and held other positions of trust, benevolence and usefulness. After a brief illness he died April 15, 1830, at the age of sixty-two years. At the time of his death he was the oldest merchant in continuous service west of Schenectady. His funeral was largely attended from all parts of the county, and by many of those other early settlers who honored and respected him while living and mourned his death. The widow of Mr. Tracy died in April, 1852, at the age of seventy-three years, and a fitting monument in the Whitesboro cemetery marks their resting place. Mr. Tracy left four sons and five daughters, all dead but one son and the youngest daughter. William and Charles Tracy, two of the sons, are too well known in this community and to the bar of the State, to need any reference to their honored careers. William Tracy was two years in Hamilton College, then a year at Union, where he graduated in 1824; for two years he read law with Storrs & White, later with Judge Denio, and a short time with J. H. Ostrom, and in 1828 was admitted to the bar. He practiced law in Utica with his brother Charles, and about 1855 he removed to New York city, where he continued in a large and lucrative practice until his death in the fall of 1881, at the age of seventy-six. Charles Tracy graduated at Yale College about 1830, read law one year in New York city with Henry R. Storrs, completed his legal studies with Judge Foster of Rome, was admitted to the bar about 1835, and became a member of the law firm of Foster, Noyes & Tracy at Rome. He moved to New York about 1848, and is now one of the leading lawyers in that city. Henry and Edward Tracy were the two other sons, and both prominent civil engineers. Henry was for a year and a half civil engineer for the government of New Granada. He died in Santa Fe De Bogota in 1851, at the age of thirty-six. Edward was engineer on the Chenango Canal, later assistant under Hon. John B. Jervis of Rome, on the Croton Aqueduct, and after the resignation of the latter, chief engineer on that work until the work was completed and the water distributed in the city. He was subsequently engineer on the Des Moines navigation

improvement, and after that was again called to the position of chief engineer of the Croton Water Works, and there remained until his death in 1875, at the age of fifty-eight. Susan, the eldest of the family, became the second wife of Moses Bagg, one of Utica's honored citizens and early residents. She died in 1859. Margaret, another daughter, and the second of the children, married Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich, a faithful divine, and for many years a worthy resident of Utica. She died in 1862. Annie, the fourth of the family, was the first wife of William Curtis Noyes, one of the ablest lawyers in this county, and later of the city of New York. She died in 1836, at the early age of twenty-nine years. Until within a few years past the plain and unpretending house in Rome yet remained, where Mr. and Mrs. Noyes first went to housekeeping. Catharine became the wife of Milton D. Parker, a worthy citizen of Utica. She was drowned with a number of others in April, 1845, at the time the steamboat Swallow ran aground opposite Hudson. Frances, the youngest of the daughters, and the only one of them alive, is the wife of William Henry Welles, a resident of New York city. All of Mr. Tracy's family were cultured, and valuable acquisitions to the society of Whitesboro.

Arthur Breese.

The year before E. K. Kane was born, in 1794, there settled in Whitesboro another lawyer, who subsequently became prominent in the politics of the county. That lawyer was a native of New Jersey, graduated at Princeton College, read law in Philadelphia with the celebrated Elias Boudinot, was admitted to the bar in 1792, and when he located in Whitesboro was but twenty-five years old. His wife was a sister of Mrs. Jonas Platt, and as Mr. Platt was county clerk of Herkimer county in 1794, he made Arthur Breese, the lawyer alluded to, deputy county clerk. In 1796 Mr. Breese was elected to the Assembly, as successor to Jonas Platt in that body, and when Oneida county was formed, in 1798, Mr. Breese was appointed the first surrogate, and held that office for ten years thereafter; surely those brothers-in-law had their share of offices. A law partnership between Messrs. Platt and Breese was formed, and their marriage, business, social and political ties were strong indeed. The first homestead of Mr. Breese in Whitesboro was opposite the "Green," was known later as the "Storrs House," where the late Thomas H. Flandrau lived many years, and which dwelling tradition says Mr. Breese erected. Later, Mr. Breese built a fine residence on the hill near the cemetery, where

Gideon Granger resided a number of years subsequent to 1814. As Mr. Breese was a federalist, the council of appointment in 1808 turned him out of the office of surrogate, and about that time he moved to Utica. On Mr. Breese's removal to Utica, he was made one of the clerks of the old Supreme Court, and he was also master in chancery. He was clerk of that court from 1808 until his death. He died in 1825, in the city of New York, where he had gone for his health. His age was fifty-five years. Mr. Breese was not a prominent member of the bar, nor do the court proceedings show that he ever had much to do as an attorney or counsel; but he was among the most worthy of the citizens of the county, and very highly respected and esteemed. While he and his family were residents of Whitesboro, they were valuable additions to the society of the place. He had quite a large family of children, all of whom were cultivated and refined. Samuel L., one of his sons, was rear admiral of the navy, and sixty years in the service. One of his daughters became the wife of B. B. Lansing, and after his death she married James Platt of Oswego, brother of Judge Platt; B. B. and R. R. Lansing were brothers. Another daughter was the wife of William M. Sands, purser in the United States navy. Another was the wife of Captain S. B. Griswold, of the United States army, (afterwards the father-in-law of Professor S. F. B. Morse, of telegraph fame.) Another daughter was the wife of the late Thomas R. Walker of Utica. Sidney Breese, one of his sons, was born within half a mile of the place where E. K. Kane first saw the light, and about five years after Mr. Kane's birth. Sidney Breese attended Hamilton College, but graduated at Union, and soon after followed E. K. Kane to Illinois, and was admitted to the bar in that State before he was of age. When he was twenty-two years old he was appointed State attorney and held that office for five years, and then, in 1827, was appointed United States district attorney, and later postmaster of Kaskaskia, where he and Mr. Kane resided—all through the influence doubtless of Mr. Kane, who was then in the United States Senate. In 1829 Mr. Breese published in octavo form a volume of Supreme Court decisions for Illinois, which volume bears his name, and was the first book of that form published in that State. In 1835 he was elected circuit judge and in 1843 elected United States Senator from Illinois. No other instance of the kind can be found of two persons so near an age—born within half a mile of each other, moving in early life to a distant territory, and both becoming United States Senators from the

same State. In 1855 Mr. Breese was again elected circuit judge, and subsequently was made chief justice of Illinois.

Rev. Bethuel Dodd.

As I have named the first lawyers, the first merchants, and the first physician who located in Whitesboro, the next in order will be the first clergyman. An inscription upon a monument in Whitesboro cemetery tells us that the remains of Rev. Bethuel Dodd repose beneath, that he came in 1794 to Whitesboro from Orange, N. J., assisted in forming the first Presbyterian Church in the State west of Albany, that he lived at Whitesboro the remainder of his life, and died there April 12, 1804, at the age of thirty-seven years. Mr. Dodd was born at Bloomfield, N. J., graduated from Rutgers College in 1792, and the next year was licensed to preach. On the first day of April, 1793, a meeting was held in the barn of Hugh White, at which he presided, to take measures to form a religious society. Jonas Platt, Thomas R. Gold, George Doolittle and others were a committee on resolutions. An organization was finally effected under the name of "The United Presbyterian Societies of Whitestown and Old Fort Schuyler." Among the first thirteen trustees were Jonas Platt, Elizur Moseley, Thomas R. Gold, Amos Wetmore and Arthur Breese. In 1794, Rev. Bethuel Dodd, then twenty-seven years old, was called to be the first pastor of that church, then numbering fourteen members, and his first sermon to them was preached August 20th, of that year, in the tavern then kept by Daniel C. White. The installation services were held in an arbor improvised for the occasion, on or near what is now the "Public Green" in Whitesboro. At first, Mr. Dodd preached at Utica only once a month, and the remaining Sabbaths at Whitesboro, where he had much the largest congregations; later, he alternated between the two places. Until a church edifice was erected, he preached in Mr. White's tavern, or in barns. In 1803, the Presbyterian Church edifice, 45 by 60 feet, was erected on Main street, at a cost of $4,500, and in March, 1804, it was dedicated. In a very short time thereafter, Mr. Dodd sickened and died, and his was the first funeral held in that edifice. He died April 12, 1804. The wife of Mr. Dodd was Sarah Pierson, of Orange, N. J., a sister of the mother of Hon. John Stryker, of Rome, and of Rev. Isaac P. Stryker, of Whitesboro. She subsequently married Mr. Ballard, and died in Whitesboro in 1828. Mr. and Mrs. Dodd were childless. When they moved to Whitesboro, they took up their residence in the log house along with

Jonas Platt and wife, but subsequently he erected a dwelling westerly of Thomas R. Gold's premises.

President Dwight, in his "travels" through this section in 1799 and later, speaks of Mr. Dodd as a very worthy and excellent person, who left behind him a name which is as the odor of sweet incense. Rev. John Taylor, in his missionary tour in 1802 through this part of the State, speaks of Mr. Dodd as a pious and valuable man, very intelligent, a sound Calvinist and very judicious. He makes this entry in his journal: "Preached for Mr. Dodd at Whitesboro; about 250 persons present; communion day; about forty members; appearances good; in the afternoon preached at Utica; about 300 present; most of the persons are at the Borough. At Utica may be found ten or twelve different nations, and of almost all religions and sects, but the greater part are of no religion. The world is the great object with the body of the people." The late Judge Seth B. Roberts, of Rome, who lived when a lad with Mr. Dodd, speaks of him as of fine personal appearance, of polite and polished manners and an able preacher.

Dr. William Kirkpatrick.

In 1795, there came from New Jersey to Whitesboro, the second physician of the place, who with his natural ability and skill, would have ranked among the best physicians in the State, had he closely followed his profession. It was Dr. William Kirkpatrick. He was born in New Jersey in 1768, was a son of a Presbyterian clergyman, graduated at Princeton College, studied medicine with the celebrated Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, and located in Whitesboro as above mentioned, boarding, while there, at the tavern kept by Colonel Daniel C. White. He was skillful as a physician, but his sympathies were so strong with the suffering and his horror of death so great, that he endeavored to avoid the duties of his calling, and graduated into other pursuits. In 1806, he was elected to Congress, over John Nicholson, of Herkimer, and while in Washington acquitted himself creditably, and became a great friend of William H. Crawford. About 1809 Mr. Kirkpatrick removed to Salina, was appointed in 1811 superintendent of the salt springs, and held that position until a year before his death. He died rather suddenly of cholera, in September, 1832, highly respected by the citizens of Onondaga county.

Theodore Sill.

In Goshen, Lynn and New Fairfield, Connecticut, were in the last century, numerous families by the name of Sill. One of those

families at Goshen was Dr. Elisha Sill. He was a graduate of Yale, a surgeon in the American army in 1777, at the surrender of Burgoyne, and for nearly fifty years was engaged in the practice of medicine. Theodore Sill was the second son of Dr. Elisha Sill. He graduated in 1797 from Yale College, when twenty years of age, and very soon after took up his residence in Whitesboro and became a law student in the office of Thomas R. Gold, who had married his sister. Mr. Sill was admitted to the Oneida Common Pleas in December, 1800, having been previously admitted to the Supreme Court, and at once the law firm of Gold & Sill was formed. In 1802, Mr. Sill was appointed county treasurer, the second one appointed in the county, and was continued in that office until 1810 when he was succeeded by William G. Tracy. In 1814 he was elected to the Assembly, and again in 1826 and again in 1827. He was appointed brigadier general of the State Militia, was an old friend of General Winfield Scott, and old residents relate visits made to General Sill at Whitesboro by General Scott and staff, and the sumptuous and elegant entertainments furnished on those occasions by General Sill to the hero of Lundy's Lane. Mr. Sill was rather tall in person, of stately figure, of polished and courtly manners, dignified bearing and of rather commanding presence. He was a good lawyer, a graceful and persuasive speaker, and as an advocate before a jury, he was the superior of Mr. Gold. Ex-Judge Foster tells me of a case tried at the Rome court house which he heard Mr. Sill sum up for the plaintiff over sixty years ago. It was an action for assault and battery and false imprisonment, brought by one Barney Hoy (once a notable character of Rome), against Captain Welch, an United States officer at the Rome arsenal. The offense consisting in putting Hoy in irons and keeping him severely confined several days, for an alleged disobedience of orders. Judge Foster says the summing up by General Sill was remarkable for its force, eloquence and touching pathos, and had great effect upon all, and particularly upon the jury, as they rendered a verdict of $1,000 for plaintiff—an unusually large verdict for those times, in such cases. Mr. Sill was not only an able lawyer, a persuasive jury advocate, and a successful politician, but he was largely interested in, and closely identified with the manufacturing interests in the county. He was an active co-operator in the establishment there of the first cotton mills in the State, and promoted similar enterprises in other localities. In 1810, he married Miss Eliza Mann, an educated and highly cultured woman whose family will hereafter be noticed.

Mr. Sill died at Whitesboro March 27, 1836, at the age of fifty-nine years; just eight days after the death of Samuel A. Talcott, who had been a law student in the office of Mr. Sill a quarter of a century before. Mr. Sill had nine children; five of them died before reaching nine years of age. The only son of his who survived him died in 1842, at the age of twenty-four. His eldest daughter became the wife of Hon. Calvert Comstock, of Rome, too well and favorably known to need further mention. Sarah Gold Sill became the wife of Rev. Gurdon Huntington, of Sag Harbor, and after her death in 1858, Mr. Huntington married her sister Charlotte. All of the children of Mr. Sill are dead. The daughters were educated, intelligent and refined, and were among the most cultured of Whitesboro's society, when it was at its best. Of all of Whitesboro's intelligent ladies, none were better informed, possessed greater conversational powers, had finer literary tastes and acquirements than Sarah Gold Sill. The widow of Theodore Sill died in Rome in April, 1847, and the remains of both, with those of five of their children, sleep side by side in the Whitesboro cemetery.

As this paper closes all I have to say of Whitesboro, prior to 1800, a brief sketch of the condition and growth of that hamlet during the last decade of the last century may be of interest. Between 1790 and 1800, the population of the "Whitestown Country," increased by reason of immigration, more rapidly than at any former or subsequent period in its history. Elkanah Watson, who was an extensive traveler through Europe as well as through the United States, passed through the Mohawk valley several times between 1784 and 1800. On his visit in September, 1788, he makes this entry in his journal.

"The road from old Fort Schuyler to Whitesboro is as bad as possible, obstructed by broken bridges, logs and stumps, and my horse at every step sinking knee deep in the mud. I remained one day recruiting at Judge White's log house, and slept in his log barn with horses and other animals. Whitesboro is a promising new settlement, in the heart of a fine tract of country, and is just in its transition from a state of nature into civilization. The settlement commenced only three years since. It is astonishing what efforts are making to subdue the dense and murky forests. Log houses are already scattered in the midst of stumps, half burnt logs and girdled trees. I observed their log barns were well filled. At present, lots bordering on the river have advanced to $3 per acre—those lying a few miles back at $1 per acre. Settlers are continually pouring in from the Connecticut hive, which throws off its annual swarms of intelligent, industrious and enterprising emigrants. They already estimate 300 brother Yankees on their muster list. At Oriskany I passed 200 Indians, and after leaving the consecrated spot of

the Oriskany battle ground, which I thoroughly visited, I found myself soon after alone in the woods in the midst of a band of Indians '*as drunk as lords.*'"

In September, 1791, Mr. Watson passed over the same route. He makes this entry in his journal: "Emigrants are swarming into these fertile regions in shoals, like the ancient Israelites, seeking the land of promise." Another writer states that in the winter "of 1795, 1,200 sleighs loaded with furniture and with men, women and children passed through Albany for the Whitestown Country" in three days; and that 500 were counted between sunrise and sunset of February 28th of that year. I have heretofore mentioned the terms of court, Judge Platt held in Whitesboro, and as a matter of interest and of future reference, I give the names of the judges who held the circuits, and the time of holding them in Whitesboro, up to the time the constitution of 1821 went into effect. The June term of 1802 was held by Judge Smith Thompson, in the school house. In September, 1803, by Jacob Radcliff. In June, 1805, by James Kent. In June, 1806, by Ambrose Spencer. In June, 1808, by Judge Kent; June, 1810, by Judge Spencer; September, 1812, by Judge Thompson. In June, 1814 and 1816 by W. W. Van Ness. At the term in 1816, Martin Van Buren, then attorney general of the State, attended, and was engaged in the trial of a couple of jury causes. In June, 1820, Judge John Woodworth held the court, and in May, 1823, Judge Spencer. Prior to June, 1808, the courts were held in the school house in Whitesboro. The first court held in the court house in that village was by Judge Kent, June, 1808.

The Guiteau Family.

It has been already stated that Dr. Elizur Moseley, of Whitesboro, was the first physician who located in this part of the State. The second one who came was Dr. Norton Porter, who located in 1791, at the age of twenty or twenty-one years, in what is now the town of Westmoreland, and for forty years followed his profession; he was father of Dr. H. N. Porter, now of New York Mills. In 1792, or a little earlier, there came another physician, the third one of this "Whitestown country," who pitched his tent a little to the east of what is now Deerfield Corners in this county. He was from Massachusetts; and at the time of his coming was twenty-seven years old, had a wife and two small children. On his way here he stopped for a while and either

studied or practiced his profession in Rensselaer county, but it would seem, concluded to push his way still further to the westward. This new comer was Dr. Francis Guiteau, Jr., a name not now unfamiliar to the American public, nor one likely to be soon forgotten. He was grandfather of him, who within the past year, has acquired such unenviable notoriety throughout the world. The Guiteau family were of Huguenot origin and were descendants of those exiles, whom the cruel religious persecutions of Louis XIV compelled to leave their homes to seek asylums in other quarters of the globe. This audience need hardly be reminded of the historical fact that the Huguenots were noted for their intense religious zeal and fervor; for their severe and rigid notions of morality; for their skill in the mechanical arts; for their thrift and habits of industry, and for their enterprise and public spirit. Those who fled to America for homes, number among their descendants, men who are noted for their exemplary habits, rare intelligence, stern virtues, and who have contributed in a remarkable degree to the growth, prosperity, intelligence and piety of the country. Of the seven presidents of the Continental Congress, three of them, Henry Laurens, Elias Boudinot and John Jay were of Huguenot families. Besides those, there were the Morgans of South Carolina; the Bayards of Delaware, Professor Agassiz, and the late President Garfield, who were of the same origin. The Guiteau family, for many successive generations have furnished to the world one or more members of the medical profession who were leading and prominent physicians in the community in which they lived, as well as in the vicinage of their practice. They were as noted in this regard as the Mann and Capron families. The father of the one who thus located in Deerfield was himself a physician, and for years had been a leading one in Lanesboro and Pittsfield in Massachusetts. He was quite an old man, when his eldest son, who was named after him, came to this county; the father also came soon after, and died in 1814, at the age of seventy-seven. A brother of Francis Guiteau, Jr., as early as 1794, attended school in Clinton, later pursued and finished his medical studies in Massachusetts, and in 1802 located in Trenton, in this county, and there for nearly fifty years Dr. Luther Guiteau practiced his profession and was among the foremost, most honored and respected of the physicians and citizens of this county. He was father of the present Dr. Luther Guiteau of that village. Another brother was Calvin Guiteau, a well known surveyor of the farms and first roads in Deerfield, who

became a resident of that town as early as 1797, was elected in 1798 the first commissioner of highways in Deerfield, and its supervisor in 1811; in 1817, he removed to Utica, in which place he died. Another brother was Samuel Guiteau, who located in Trenton about 1803, and when seventeen years old, took up a tract of wild land in that town; he died in 1851 at the age of sixty-two years. He was for years a member of the Presbyterian church. Another brother was Rev. Norman Guiteau; he joined the Baptist church in Whitesboro in 1813, as the records of that society attest. In 1819 and 1820 he was pastor of the Baptist church in Trenton.

I have thus far digressed from the main subject of this sketch because I deemed that any facts which are given in relation to this family will be of interest. From what I can gather, I infer that Francis Guiteau, Jr., was not licensed to practice medicine when he first came to this county; and so conclude from the notice of his death in 1825 in the *Baptist Register*, which speaks of him as having been a practicing physician for nearly or about thirty years. When Deerfield was organized into a town—at the first town meeting held in the Spring of 1798, Dr. Francis Guiteau, Jr., was elected its first supervisor, re-elected in 1799 and again in 1800. About 1801 or 1802 he moved across the river into Utica, and there practiced medicine and a portion of the time kept a drug store, some of the time with Dr. Solomon G. Wolcott as partner, until 1815. In the last named year, Dr. Guiteau bought of W. G. Tracy, the premises next westerly of the present residence of C. M. Dennison, and thereupon removed to Whitesboro, and resided in that village until his death, which occurred after a brief illness, April 18, 1825, at the age of fifty-nine years and five months. Dr. Guiteau was a worthy and respected citizen, and as a physician, stood at the head of his profession. He was one of the founders in 1806 of the Oneida County Medical society, and was elected its president in 1808, and again in 1809. He was twice elected its vice-president, and three times chosen censor. In the outset of this sketch, mention was made of the religious tendencies and the enthusiasm of the Huguenots. The records of the Baptist church at Whitesboro show that Dr. Guiteau united with that church in 1809, and all accounts agree that he was a firm believer in, and a zealous advocate of the doctrines of that church. A correspondent writes me from a distant State, that Dr. Guiteau had such decided convictions as to the form of baptism by immersion, that he was heard to declare

that if an angel of light should tell him any other form was right, he would not believe it. Dr. Bagg in his "Pioneers of Utica" speaks of Dr. Guiteau, "as a zealous and leading Baptist and sensitive to any opposition to his religious views; he was also a strong democrat, genial and pleasant in manners, but decided in his opinions and free in the expression of them. He was about six feet high, rather spare of flesh, erect and active, of firm fibre and well fitted to endure labor and fatigue. In the war of 1812, he invented an explosive missile, designed to sink ships, for which he received a grant from the government." The article in the *Baptist Register* before alluded to, supposed to have been written by Rev. Elon Galusha, a former editor of that paper, and who was in charge of the Baptist church at Whitesboro at the time of the doctor's death, spoke of the deceased "as one of the brightest luminaries in his profession, a friend to humanity, an affectionate husband, an indulgent parent, and the possessor of an active mind and memory which few can boast, and one who died in full faith in his Redeemer and confidence in the Christian religion." Dr. Guiteau was the father of eleven children, ten of whom, five sons and five daughters, lived to maturity. The given names of three of the sons were the same as those of their uncles, and it was argued on the assassin's trial at Washington, that as the names of Calvin, Luther and Abram seemed to be favorite ones in the Guiteau family, it afforded evidence of the tendency to the religious spirit and enthusiasm which characterized their Huguenot ancestry.

I will name the children in the order of their births, and by mentioning the diseases of which they died, light may be thrown upon the question as to insanity in the family, and as to whether it was brain trouble, or a disease of other organs that caused death. Mary was the first born, and was about two years old when her father came to the "Whitestown country;" in 1812 she married John McNeil, then of Charlotte, Vermont, but the McNeil family subsequently lived across the river in Deerfield in this county, as old residents inform me. He was father of Judge John McNeil, of Port Huron, Michigan. An inscription on a tombstone in the Whitestown cemetery tells us that Mary died August 27, 1816, in the twenty-seventh year of her age; she died of consumption. Hannah was the next born, and was about a year old when Dr. Guiteau located in Deerfield; she was never married; after her father's death she lived with her brother Calvin at Watertown, and later with her brother Luther at Freeport, where she died of cholera in October, 1854.

The third child, but the first son, was Julius C. He was born the next year after his father moved to this section. A correspondent, now seventy-seven years old, writes me that he well remembers Julius, when the latter was in his teens and clerk in the drug store of Dr. Wolcott, of Utica. In September, 1815, when twenty-two years old, he married Mary Ann, the eldest daughter of Dr. Moseley, and soon after moved to Buffalo, and went into the drug business in that place. A letter from the post office department gives me the information that Julius C. Guiteau was postmaster of Buffalo from May 6, 1818, to April 25, 1831. It will be remembered that William A. Moseley, a brother-in-law of Julius C. Guiteau, went to Buffalo from Whitesboro, about 1818, and subsequently became a well known lawyer and member of Congress in that place. Julius C. subsequently moved west and died of consumption in Freeport, in August, 1845. His widow died in August, 1853, in Whitesboro, and her remains are in the cemetery lot of her father in that place. Old remembrancers of Whitesboro inform me that Julius C. had no children. A Roman informs me that in 1838 he was living in Batavia, in this State, and that he knew a young man there about twenty-one years old by the name of Julius Guiteau. The name and age of this young man would indicate him to be the eldest son of Julius C.; but it may have been another family, or the old residents of Whitesboro may have forgotten, or never have known, whether or not any children were born unto Julius, as he left Whitesboro so soon after his marriage and never lived there afterwards. Sophronia was the next child born, who lived to maturity. In October, 1818, she became the wife of Captain Freedom Tibbetts, formerly deputy sheriff in this county, and who over fifty years ago kept the American Hotel in Rome. She died of consumption in August, 1822, at the age of twenty-six, leaving two children. The daughter is dead, but the son named after Francis Guiteau is living in Milwaukee, a wealthy and respected citizen of that place. Anna was the next child; she was born in 1798. When a young woman she taught in Whitesboro a school for young girls. In January, 1829, she married Orsamus H. Parker, a music dealer and teacher, and lived a while, as I learn, in Oswego. A correspondent from the west writes me that in 1835 Anna was a widow with three children, and residing at Ann Arbor, but that within a year or so after, she moved away and went east, and in 1852 was living in Jefferson county. It was stated by counsel on the Guiteau trial that Mrs. Parker returned to Oswego insane, and

died in that condition. Correspondents at Watertown, who well knew Anna in her life-time, write me that she lived for a while and died in Watertown and is buried there, and speak highly of her; no mention is made of her insanity. Another correspondent writes me that Anna died of cancer in the breast, and makes no mention of her being insane. She left three children; the eldest son was quite intemperate, and as appeared on the Guiteau trial, died in an insane asylum; another son is living out west, and the only daughter died a few years ago in San Francisco.

Francis W. was the second son of Dr. Guiteau, and he is the one of whom mention was made on the assassin's trial as having been engaged when a young man in a duel, and died in an insane asylum. A correspondent, now eighty-six years old, a former resident of Utica, and who well knew and well remembers Dr. Guiteau and all of his children, and whose mind and memory seem unimpaired, writes to the following effect of that affair: When quite young, Frank went to live with his brother Julius in Buffalo. He became involved in a love affair, and challenged his rival to fight a duel. As a joke upon the challenger, the pistols were loaded only with powder, and the shirt bosom of the rival stained with blood, or with a liquid resembling blood, and then concealed from sight. The parties met, Frank fired and the rival fell; as the "bloody shirt" was exposed to view, Frank thought he had committed murder, and was so frightened and conscience stricken, or else ashamed and mortified at the hoax played upon him, that his nervous system was prostrated, and his health became so much impaired, that he returned to his home in Whitesboro; afterwards he went codfishing or on a whaling voyage. Another correspondent, a former resident of Whitesboro, writes me that he well remembers Frank, when the latter was a young man and expert clerk in the office of Thomas Walker, of Utica—that Frank wrote a splendid hand, was of pleasing address and manners, dressed well, stylish and "nobby" in his appearance. That correspondent further writes, that in 1828 or 1829 Frank came to him in New York city, rather "cranky" in appearance, and saying that he had just returned from a three years' cruise as captain's clerk; that was the last that correspondent ever saw of him. The records of the Bloomingdale Asylum show that Francis W. Guiteau died insane in that institution in December, 1829, at the age of twenty-nine, his insanity caused by mortification at fighting a sham duel. He was in that asylum three months. It was stated on the trial at Washington that Francis had been

insane fourteen years; that would make him about fifteen when that sham duel was fought. Julia was the next child; she was born in Utica in March, 1802, which would indicate that the time her father moved to that place from Deerfield, was as early as 1801, or else the fore part of the year 1802. In September, 1825, she was married by Rev. John Frost, to William Sumner Maynard, a nephew and clerk of Dr. Moseley, and also a cousin of William H. Maynard. His mother was a sister of Dr. Moseley. Soon after the marriage, he moved to Oswego, and commenced the dry goods business there. In September, 1830, he moved to Ann Arbor, and there became one of the most wealthy, enterprising, public spirited and respected citizens of the place. He died in 1866. His wife, after a week's illness, died in January, 1856, of consumption, ending in an attack of pneumonia. Correspondents speak of Mrs. Maynard in the highest terms, as an active worker in the church, a lovely Christian character, a benevolent and kind hearted, and a most estimable woman. In fact, all of my information as regards the daughters of Dr. Guiteau is to the same effect; and wherever mention or allusion is made to insanity in the family, or any of its members by any of my informants, that fact is not withheld in the sketches. Mrs. Maynard had three children, all now living; one Mrs. Wilson, of Leadville, Colorado, and one Mrs. Lansing, of Michigan. The youngest, after ten or twelve years of age, became weak minded and imbecile, caused as the evidence on the Guiteau trial showed, by reason of frequent mesmeric operations upon her when a young girl.

Calvin was the next born; when a lad he was clerk for the Walcotts. Calvin afterwards learned the jeweler's trade of Mr. Wells, in Whitesboro, and about 1828 located in Watertown, Jefferson county. About 1830, he married Miss Zaire A. Romaine, whose parents resided on Carlton Island. Calvin was a very ingenious mechanic, and manufactured not only valuable time pieces, but surgical instruments and other fine pieces of workmanship. Calvin died in September, 1846, at the age of forty-one years. He was the father of five or six children, all of them dead but two—one Mrs. Corbin, of De Pauville, in that county, and the other a son, (Henry Clay Guiteau), a worthy resident of St. Louis, and for eleven years past, conductor on the Iron Mountain railroad.

Abram Bloodgood Guiteau was the next, and was born in 1807. He too was dry goods clerk, and as he grew to manhood engaged in mercantile pursuits. Not far from 1838 he married Miss Emily

Redfield, daughter of Deacon Redfield of Watertown. My information is, that about that time he was in the dry goods trade in Pulaski, Oswego county, as one of the firm of Mansfield & Guiteau, and that about 1843 he located in Sacketts Harbor, and was a merchant there from that time until about 1853, when he moved west and located at Freeport. In the early part of the rebellion, he drifted south as a soldier, and was at Little Rock and other points south, but lived to return. He is one whom counsel on the Guiteau trial spoke of as having become in the latter years of his life quite out of joint in his habits and his mind weak and imbecile. He died a few years ago at the residence of his brother Luther, in Freeport. He had four or five children, but I am not able to trace them.

Luther W. Guiteau was the youngest of the family and was born in March, 1810. He was the father of the one who, within the past year, has brought the name so prominently into notice. He was steady and conscientious, had experienced religion and united with the church. In those days the great and about the highest ambition of the generality of young men was to become merchants, and so Luther Guiteau entered a dry goods store, graduated therefrom, went west and became a merchant in Ann Arbor. About 1835 he married Miss Jane A. Howe, daughter of Major John Howe, who was for some time a partner in Ann Arbor of William S. Maynard. Mr. Guiteau took his wife to Ann Arbor, where he was in prosperous business, and there two of his children, Mrs. George Scoville and John W. Guiteau were born. In 1838 he removed to Freeport, and there, for the last six years of her life, his wife was much out of health, a portion of the time confined to her bed. Three more children were born, one of whom was Charles Jules Guiteau, in September, 1841. She died about 1847, and a few years thereafter Mr. Guiteau married for his second wife a widow who was formely a resident of Cazenovia, in Madison county. Of this last marriage two children were born, both residents of Freeport, the son named after his father, and in a bank in that place. Luther W. Guiteau died in Freeport in 1880, at the age of seventy years. All the information which comes to me of the family, is to the effect, that Luther had more of that stern and rigid morality, more of the intense religious zeal and fervor, than any of the other children. In this regard, he may have more closely resembled his father, than did any of his brothers or sisters. This element in him, with a similar spirit in his wife, may have been inherited by one or more of their children. But all accounts

agree, that whatever Luther's religious view may have been, he was a very amiable, kind hearted, conscientious, good dispositioned and upright man; that for years, he was the trusted cashier of a bank in Freeport, and universally respected and esteemed. A photograph taken of Luther a few years before his death, has been shown me, and it would indicate a person of intelligence, firm and decisive in his views, unbending in his purposes, unyielding in his convictions, yet a kind hearted and amiable man.

The widow of Dr. Francis Guiteau, and mother of the foregoing children, lived with her son Julius, at Buffalo, awhile after her husband's death, but died at Watertown many years ago, at the age of seventy or eighty years, and she is buried at that place.

Henry R. Storrs.

In 1804 there was much excitement in the "Black River Country," north of us, over the near prospect that a new county was to be formed from Oneida, and as to the location of the county seat. Champion, Brownville, Watertown, Redfield, Lowville and Martinsburgh were all sharp competitors for the prize, and each locality had its warm and influential friends. At Champion resided Noadiah Hubbard, the first settler, Moss Kent, brother of the Chancellor, and himself a strong man, Egbert Ten Eyck, (father-in-law of Judge Mullin,) afterwards member of congress and county judge; and besides, the influence of the landed proprietors was exerted in behalf of their town. In 1804, while this excitement was at its height, Henry R. Storrs graduated from Yale College at the age of seventeen years. All accounts agree that he was located for awhile at Champion village, that he read law with Gold & Sill, at Whitesboro, and that he was admitted to the bar about 1809; but I cannot learn whether he was at Champion or Whitesboro first. I conjecture, however, that he first went to Champion and read law with Mr. Ten Eyck, or Moss Kent, in the hope that that place would be selected for the county seat; but finding that two counties (Jefferson and Lewis) instead of one were formed, and that Champion became the county seat of neither, he concluded that village (even if it was the seat of his father's landed possessions,) afforded a poor field for his talents, and that he then came to Whitesboro, finished his legal studies, and became a permanent resident of that village.

At that time Whitesboro loomed up more prominently than any place in the State west of Albany. It was a half-shire town. The county clerk, treasurer and surrogate had their offices and lived

there, as did also the Member of Congress and many other leading men. In common parlance, Whitestown was then "booming," and there Henry R. Storrs located, not far from 1809. In 1810, he married Esther White, granddaughter of the pioneer settler and the first white child born in the "Whitestown Country." When Mr. Storrs commenced practicing law there, he was but a year or so past his twenty-first birthday; yet he rose rapidly to notice and to a prominent position at the bar and in politics. Fortune C. White was admitted to the bar about 1814, and the two formed a partnership, and had a profitable and extensive law business. It was the third law firm in Whitesboro whose members were brothers-in-law, and who were also influential and prominent politicians and office-holders, viz.: Platt & Breese, Gold & Sill, Storrs & White.

In 1816, Mr. Storrs was nominated for Congress. His competitor was Nathan Williams, of Utica. At that time Mr. Storrs was but twenty-nine years old. For eight years (or one-half the time since Oneida county was formed) Whitesboro had had the representative in Congress. That election resulted in favor of Mr. Storrs by 278 majority. In 1818 Mr. Storrs was re-nominated and re-elected without any formidable opposition. His course in Congress in 1820 in favor of the Missouri Compromise,* was distasteful to his constituency, and he was not re-nominated in that year. In 1822 he was picked up and nominated by the party to which theretofore he had always been opposed. His opponent was Hon. Ezekiel Bacon, father of ex-Judge Wm. J. Bacon. After a sharp contest and a poll of many thousands of votes, Mr. Storrs was elected by only fifty-five majority—the closest vote, I think, ever cast in this county between opposing candidates for Congress. In 1824 Mr. Storrs was re-nominated and elected the fourth time, beating James Lynch, his opponent, by over 1,000 majority. In 1826 he ran again against Ezekiel Bacon, and was for the fifth time elected; this time by over 2,300. In 1828 he again ran, and was elected by 234 majority over Greene C. Bronson. This was the sixth time Mr. Storrs was elected—more times than any other congressman from this county. While holding this office, March 9, 1825, he was appointed First Judge of the old Common Pleas of this county, and held that office until January, 1830, when he was succeeded by Chester Hayden.

The residence of Mr. Storrs, in Whitesboro, was opposite the

*He was to a large extent its originator and earliest and most powerful advocate.—*Bacon's Early Bar of Oneida County.*

Court House, and on the northeasterly side of Main street. Tradition has it, that it had been the early residence of Mr. Breese, and that the latter erected the house. Of this I have doubts, for it was land which Judge Hugh White had conveyed to Fortune C. White and Esther (White) Storrs, and it is doubtful if it ever passed out of the family, until Mr. and Mrs. Storrs sold it in 1833 to Rev. Mr. Coville, a Baptist clergyman at Whitesboro. The latter the next year deeded that old homestead to Fortune C. White, and the latter in 1847 to the late Thos. H. Flandrau. About 1832, Mr. Storrs removed to New York, and opened a law office in that city.

I have alluded to Mr. Storrs' political career, and have hardly mentioned his legal abilities or professional standing. It is proper to say that as a jury advocate, he had no equal in the county, and but very few in the State. He was tall, of commanding figure and presence, dignified in bearing, graceful in manners, with a voice remarkable for power, as well as for sweetness and melody. He was fluent in speech, apt and felicitous in questions and expression, classical and chaste in his thoughts, and his eloquent, ringing and well rounded sentences were well calculated to enrapture and captivate a jury. He was also an excellent lawyer, and combined in a greater degree than any other lawyer in central New York, the legal acumen of the jurist with the brilliancy of an advocate. Henry Clay told ex-Judge Foster when the latter was in Congress in 1837–8, that Henry R. Storrs was the most eloquent debater he ever heard on the floor of the House. Ex-Judge Gridley told me many incidents in the professional career of Mr. Storrs, demonstrating his great power and influence over juries. Judge Gridley said Mr. Storrs was the most brilliant advocate he ever heard. He related a summing up of Mr. Storrs in the Rome court house about 1828, in behalf of a plaintiff in a noted *crim. con.* case, wherein Mr. Storrs, in his appeal to the jury for large damages, deprecated the effect upon the community if the verdict was not among the thousands, and if it was not, he invoked the lightning of heaven to fall upon that court house and shiver it to atoms, so that not one brick or stone should stand above another, nor a vestige remain of a place where an American jury had so lightly punished such violators of law. Judge Gridley said it was the most powerful and thrilling appeal he ever heard.

Mr. Storrs had five children, all of whom outlived him. His youngest child and only daughter Eliza, was in early life in delicate health and consumptively inclined. In July, 1837, he,

with her and with his wife, were at the Pavillion Hotel at New Haven, Conn., for the purpose of improving his invalid daughter's health by the breezes off Long Island Sound. In the evening of July 29th, Mr. Storrs ascended the stairs to the cupola of the hotel to view a fire which had broken out in the city; while going down stairs he complained of faintness and sat down to rest; on recovering he proceeded on his way to the drawing room, and while walking up and down in the rooms of the hotel, in cheerful conversation, he was taken suddenly ill, fell to the floor and expired immediately. An artery was ruptured. And thus, at the age of forty-nine years, Henry R. Storrs was cut off in his prime, in the midst of his professional career and usefulness, and in the full vigor of an unclouded intellect. He was buried in that city, and at meetings of the bar and of fellow-citizens in New Haven, New York and elsewhere, and through the press, were voiced the deep feelings of sorrow everywhere felt at such a loss. His daughter died August 27, 1837, not a month after the death of her father, at the age of twenty-two, and the two are buried by each other's side. I might mention here that a sister of Mr. Storrs, was the wife Governor Joseph Trumbull, of Connecticut: a brother of his read law with Henry R. in Whitesboro, returned to Connecticut to practice law, and was a Member of Congress for six years, and Judge of the Supreme Court of that State from 1840 until his death in 1861. Of the four sons of Henry R. Storrs, Henry Lemuel graduated at Hamilton College, entered the ministry, and in 1836 became an Episcopal minister, and was located for a while at New Hartford in this county, but afterwards at Yonkers, where he died in 1852, at the age of fifty-one. His wife was a sister of Bishop Kip. Fortune K., another son, located in California, and was connected with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and died unmarried in December, 1853, at the age of forty-four. His remains are in the Yuba Cemetery on the Pacific Slope. William Champion was another son; he graduated from college, read law, and was admitted to the bar and located in Rochester and was United States Commissioner. He died July 14, 1853, at the age of fifty seven years; his remains are in the cemetery at Mt. Hope. Peyton R., another son, was a farmer and lived many years in Trenton, but many years ago moved to Wisconsin, and died at Milwaukee June 13, 1855, at the age of thirty-seven; his remains were taken to Mt. Hope.

The widow of Henry R. Storrs outlived her whole family. Toward the close of her life she took up her residence with her old

friend, Mrs Sarah Eames, in New Hartford in this county. Mrs. Eames was the oldest daughter and only surviving child of the late Jedediah Sanger. She died August 12, 1861, at the age of eighty-three years, and her funeral took place from her late residence at 3 P. M. Thursday, August 15th. That same night there was another death in that dwelling. The two who had seen this country when it was a wilderness, and had lived to witness its growth and prosperity, who were schoolmates in girlhood, companions in later years, and friends through life, and who had outlived their day and generation, were not long separated at death. Before the sun had risen on the morrow, all that was mortal of Esther Storrs had ceased to live. She died at the age of seventy-six. In that quiet rural home, within sight and sound of the murmuring waters of that busy stream where their ancestors settled, and upon which they erected so many thriving industries, the eldest daughter and only surviving child of the pioneer settler of New Hartford, and the first white born child of all of this "Whitestown Country," passed their last days together in seclusion, quite unnoticed, almost forgotten by the world; and there this aged couple died, but a few days apart. There is surely a singular coincidence and a touching appropriateness in the ending of these two lives. The remains of Mrs. Storrs were taken to Mt. Hope for interment.

Samuel A. Talcott.

Whenever Henry R. Storrs is mentioned as once a resident of this county, and as the ablest jury advocate of his day in Central New York, the name of Samuel A. Talcott comes to mind, for he was a cotemporary of Mr. Storrs, a resident of Whitesboro for a while, and the ablest lawyer in the county, and not surpassed by any in the State or nation. Mr. Talcott was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and was left an orphan at an early age. When fourteen years of age he attended Colchester (Connecticut) Academy, thence passed to Williams College, where he graduated in 1809 at the age of twenty years. Soon thereafter, he married a sister of Col. John Ledyard, of Revolutionary fame, and about the time of his marriage, moved to Whitesboro, and finished his legal studies in the office of Gold & Sill. In 1812 he moved to Lowville, in Lewis county, and formed a law partnership with Isaac W. Bostwick; the latter prior to 1800 was a tutor in the family of Livingston at Poughkeepsie, whose daughters, Arthur Breese and Judge Jonas Platt married. In 1816, Mr. Talcott

removed to Utica, and formed a partnership with William H. Maynard, who was a schoolmate of his in college, and who subsequently became a star of the first magnitude in the legal galaxy of the State. Mr. Talcott at once took front rank in the profession in this county and in the State, as evidenced by the fact that in February, 1821, at the age of thirty-one, he was appointed Attorney General of the State. This appointment, it is said, was made through the influence and efforts of Martin Van Buren, who was then an important factor in the politics of the State and nation. Mr. Van Buren had been six days before elected to the United States Senate, and as he had ambitious aspirations and far-reaching sagacity, he sought to attach to his interests the rising and leading young men of the State. About that same time Mr. Van Buren was instrumental in procuring the appointment of John Savage as Comptroller (afterwards Chief Justice) and Samuel Young and other young men to offices. Judge Platt, with a peculiar wink, said at the time to a friend: "This is an age of young men." On the appointment of Mr. Talcott he took up his residence in Albany, and the fact that he succeeded in the Attorney Generalship such a brilliant lawyer as Thomas J. Oakley, very naturally attracted towards him the eyes of the bar, and invoked criticism on the appointment. At that time the State numbered among its leading luminaries such men as Thomas Addis Emmett, John Wells, John C. Spencer, Ogden Hoffman, Elisha Williams, Daniel Cady, David B. Ogden, John V. Henry, and Abram Van Vechten; and yet, Mr. Talcott proved himself the peer of the brightest and the best of them. He was often engaged in important causes, where great principles of law were involved, and the closest reasoning and the finest discrimination were required to be made. He was not eloquent before a jury like Mr. Storrs, yet his mind was clear and logical; he was fluent in speech and expression, and forcible in language and gestures; if he did not captivate juries by appeals to their feelings, he generally won their judgments and verdicts by the superior force and great power of his reasoning. But it was in appellate courts, where abstruse legal questions, or great principles of law were involved and discussed, that he shone to greater advantage, and where he was without a superior, and some think without a peer in the land. Daniel Webster, Martin Van Buren, and others, equally capable of judging, have expressed opinions placing Mr. Talcott among the foremost lawyers in America. It was in a case in the United States Supreme Court, in 1829, that Mr. Talcott was

pitted against Mr. Webster, and came off victorious. It was the case known as the "Sailor's Snug Harbor," and it was by reason of Mr. Talcott's masterly argument that that institution has now an existence in New York, and ranks among the foremost charities in that city. That case has a traditionary history, because of incidents connected with it. As is well known, Mr. Talcott had become quite dissipated, and grave apprehensions were entertained as to whether he would be able to appear in court and argue the case when it was reached. He had been considerably irregular in his habits for a number of days previously, but the day the case was reached, Mr. Talcott strode into the court room, attired as was his wont, with scrupulous care and neatness, showing no sign of dissipation, and made one of the greatest arguments ever listened to in that court room. A gentleman, who forty years ago was a member of the Court of Last Resort in this State, informed me that a few years after the occurrence of the above argument, Mr. Talcott was engaged to argue an important case before that court. For some days before the case was reached, Mr. Talcott had been sadly tippling at some of the low groggeries in the suburbs of Albany, and it was feared he would not be present to take care of the case. But the day the case was called, he came into court dressed with great care, his face smoothly and cleanly shaven, showing no signs of dissipation, except a slight redness of his cheeks; his mind was clear and active, and he made a most masterly argument before the Court of Errors at Albany.

Mr. Talcott was about five feet ten, of medium size, erect in his carriage, of dignified manners and bearing, and rather distant and taciturn in his behavior. As before stated, he was first appointed Attorney General in 1821; he was reappointed in February, 1823, under the constitution of 1821, and in February, 1829, was succeeded by Greene C. Bronson, another Utican, and the latter in January, 1836, by Samuel Beardsley, still another Utican. About 1830, Mr. Talcott removed to New York, and died in that city March 19, 1836, at the early age of forty-seven years, in the midst of a legal career which, but for his irregular habits, would have been one of the most brilliant of any in the nation. Within a week thereafter Theodore Sill (in whose office Mr. Talcott had read law a quarter of a century before,) died at his home in Whitesboro. Mr. Talcott was twice married; by his first wife one child was born, the present Judge John Ledyard Talcott, of Buffalo.

Rev. John Frost.

There were a number of earnest and learned divines who located at Whitesboro in the early part of its history. Among the number may be mentioned Elder Stephen Parsons, who in 1796 formed the first Baptist Church of the place, and remained until 1802. He was succeeded by Elder Caleb Douglass, who was pastor from 1802 to 1815; next came Rev. Elder Elon Galusha, who was pastor from 1815 to 1831—all faithful and able divines. As has been heretofore stated Rev. Bethuel Dodd located in the village in 1794, and was the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church there; he was succeeded in the fall of 1804 by Rev. James Carnahan, (afterwards President of Princeton College,) who remained until 1812. I think no one of the ministers who located in Whitesboro, remained as long as, or had a higher standing, or was more widely known than Rev. John Frost.

Mr. Frost was called in November, 1812, to succeed Mr. Carnahan in the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church of that village. At that time he was an unmarried man of but twenty-four years of age. He was born in Williamsburg, Mass., and when eighteen years old graduated at Middlebury College, and four years later from Andover Theological Seminary. In May, 1810, he entered the ministry, and soon after engaged in the effort to awaken in the churches an interest in foreign missions, a subject in which he was much enlisted, and to which he pledged himself while pursuing his theological studies. At that work he labored in the principal places in New England and New York, and so great was his zeal and enthusiasm in that field of labor that he declined pastoral calls from Danbury, Conn., and from Braintree and Williamstown, Mass. He assisted in forming in Boston the first society (the "A. B. C. F. M.") on foreign missions; and could he have lived to this day, and witnessed the immense field now occupied by that society and the grand results worked out in foreign lands, he would have felt that his labors had not been in vain. Before his call, one minister had supplied the pulpits of the Presbyterian Churches at Whitesboro and Utica. On Mr. Frost coming the society was divided, and he supplied the pulpit at Whitesboro. Mr. Frost was ordained March 13, 1813, and I have before me the ordination sermon preached on the occasion by the Rev. Azel Backus, D. D., then President of Hamilton College. The pamphlet was printed by Ira Merrill, of Utica, and the subject was "Ministerial Fidelity," and from the text in Isaiah 58: 1.

Mr. Frost continued pastor of that church for twenty years, and during his labors several hundreds were converted, and many gathered into the Christian fold. By his advice, the Presbyterian Churches at Oriskany and Yorkville were formed, and the members of those congregations mainly taken from the parent church at Whitesboro. Mr. Frost was a ready and active co-operator with Rev. G. W. Gale in the founding at Whitesboro of the "Manual Labor School," later known as "Oneida Institute," and now as "Whitestown Seminary." He rendered valuable assistance in collecting funds for the support of that institution, and in 1833 resigned his pastorate to devote his whole time to soliciting money to carry on and sustain that educational enterprise. His extensive acquaintance in New England and in New York, and the unbounded confidence reposed in him by all, resulted in crowning his efforts with great success. When the institution came under the controlling influence of Rev. Beriah Green, whose views on the temperance and slavery questions were so much in advance of the age that the school lost the friendship of a great many of its former friends, Mr. Frost withdrew from that work, and returned to the ministry, and for four years was settled as pastor at Elmira. When he left that place, he declined a settlement elsewhere, meanwhile supplying vacant pulpits. He was supplying the pulpit at Waterville, in this county, retaining his residence at Whitesboro, when he took cold while riding on horseback between the two places, the cold terminated in pleurisy of which he died in Waterville March 1, 1842, at the age of fifty-four. His last words were, "God reigns and always has reigned." His remains are in the Whitesboro cemetery. Those yet living, who remember Mr. Frost, speak of him as a preacher, always clear, logical, forcible and convincing, and at times truly eloquent. His great aim was to enlighten and persuade, not to dazzle or amuse. He was earnest in manner, tireless as a worker, and a great friend of the cause of temperance and of the slave; and in that period of our country's history, when excitement was high on those questions, and it cost a man his place, and sometimes his life, to speak out boldly, Mr. Frost was an open and bold worker, and by pen and voice did what he could to erase from our country's escutcheon the stigma that we were a slave-holding people and a nation of drunkards. By his patient endurance, modest heroism and stainless integrity he won a name and reputation as a citizen, Christian, minister and philanthropist that will endure as long as philanthropy and piety shall be respected or reverenced upon

earth. For thirteen years he was trustee of Hamilton College and rendered valuable service to that institution. The same year that he was installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro, he married Harriet L. Gold, the oldest daughter of Hon. Thomas R. Gold, a woman of excellent qualities of head and heart, and among the most cultured of her sex. She survived her husband, and died at her home in Whitesboro, August 5, 1873, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. Rev. Mr. Frost left him surviving four children. Sarah Gold Frost became the wife of Rev. Andrew Hull, D. D., of Elmira, where she died in December, 1861. Mary A., another daughter, became the wife of William Burt, of Chicago; she died in Whitesboro, in June, 1863, and her remains are by the side of her parents. Thomas Gold Frost, the only son, attended the "Manual Labor School," graduated in 1842 from Hamilton College, read law in Rome with Stryker & Comstock, became a law partner of H. T. Utley, now of Waterville, and later with J. Thomas Spriggs. About 1858 Mr. Frost removed to Galesburg, in Illinois, and subsequently to Chicago, where he was a leading lawyer, and where he died in December, 1880, universally regretted. Miss Harriet L. Gold Frost is the only survivor of the family; she is yet a resident of the village where her grandfather settled ninety years ago, and is an occupant of the homestead, which he erected for her parents more than sixty years since.

The Manns and Caprons.

Inasmuch as considerable has been said concerning the pioneer lawyers, physicians and divines of Whitesboro, it is meet and proper that something should appear regarding another class of early residents, who by their industry and enterprise contributed as much as any to give to that villiage its "Golden Age." I refer to those connected with the manufacturing interests and who started the first cotton factories in this State.

On Christmas day, 1778, when this country was in the midst of her Revolutionary troubles, the American privateer brig *General Arnold*, with one hundred and twenty men on board, hoisted sail in Boston harbor and put out to sea. Hardly was that vessel out of port before it was overtaken by one of the most tremendous snow storms within the memory of any then living. The next day it parted its cable off Plymouth harbor, became unmanageable, men froze to the masts and rigging, the captain, surgeon of the vessel and one hundred of the men perished by the cold, and sixty-

six of them were buried in one grave. An inscription upon a family monument in the burying ground at Oldtown, Mass., records the above facts and concludes with these words: "And now Lord God Almighty, just and true are all Thy ways, but who can stand before Thy cold?" That monument is to the memory of the surgeon lost on that vessel. His name was Dr. Herbert Mann, of a family noted for the many eminent physicians which successive generations have produced. His father was also a doctor, of Attleboro, Mass., a noted physician and an active participator with the Colonists in their struggles for independence. That father (Dr. Bezaleel Mann) died in 1796 at the age of seventy-four years. That surgeon had three brothers, two of whom, like himself, had graduated at Brown University, and were noted physicians, one of them settling at Newport and the other at Hudson in this State. The other brother was Newton Mann, a merchant and a business man, who came to Whitesboro. Dr. J. Milton Mann, who located at Hudson, was drowned one night while crossing the river to visit a patient; he left a widow, one son and four daughters. In 1806 that widow and her children, also Newton Mann, and Dr. Seth Capron (who had married into the Mann family) came to Whitesboro to live. Newton Mann located on the corner of Main and Westmoreland streets, where Hon. Philo White now resides; the widow Mann and family lived in the house next westerly, where a son (H. B. Mann, of Newton,) subsequently lived, and which afterwards for forty years or more was the residence of Rev. Beriah Green. Dr. Capron lived on the other side of Main street, nearly opposite the residence of Newton Mann. These three families were connected by marriage or related to each other, and were valuable acquisitions to the society of Whitesboro, while the men were among the most prominent and enterprising business men in this section. About that time President Dwight, of Yale, made a tour through this section, and made this entry in his "travels:" "Of the pretty little village of Whitesborough, the houses are about sixty in number, and for a new settlement are uncommonly good; they stand on a single street, straight, smooth and beautiful. It contains two churches and several genteel families, who are eminently hospitable and furnish each other with the pleasures of a polished society." As before stated, Newton Mann was a merchant, and for a while a partner of B. S. Walcott; he was also largely interested in the promotion of cotton manufacture and other industries of the country. About 1825, he followed his son to what is now

Mannsville, in Jefferson county, but he did not engage in business after he left Whitesboro. He died in Mannsville, April 11, 1860, at the age of ninety years; his wife died six months later, November 17, 1860, at the age of ninety-four. That couple had lived a married life of sixty-eight years, and were not long separated by death. They had one son and two daughters. The son, H. B. Mann, was an enterprising business citizen and manufacturer; his wife was Julia Doolittle, a daughter of a pioneer settler of Whitesboro. About 1824, he moved to what is now Mannsville, after whom that place is named, became a partner of and half owner with his brother-in-law Daniel Wardwell, in a cotton factory of six hundred spindles, which the latter had erected there in that year. In 1827, the factory burned to the ground, entailing a loss of $10,000 upon the owners, and soon thereafter H. B. Mann returned to Whitesboro and died there January 8, 1830, at the early age of thirty-eight years. His widow died at the residence of her son Dr. J. P. Mann, of New York city, July 18, 1872, at the venerable age of eighty years, and the remains of husband and wife are side by side in the cemetery at Whitesboro. Hetty, one of the daughters of Newton Mann, became the wife of Judge Daniel Wardwell, who read law with Gold & Sill, lived in Utica, Rome, Pulaski and Mannsville, and was one of the judges of the Jefferson Common Pleas, Member of Congress from the latter county for four terms, and in Congress a devoted friend of President Jackson all through the most stormy times of the latter's Administration. Mrs. Wardwell died in 1858, and her memory is cherished by all who knew her, as one of the best and most lovable of women. Abby Mann, the other daughter, became the wife of Dr. Roswell Kinney, a leading physician of Mannsville, and one of its most worthy citizens. He was brother-in-law of Rev. G. W. Gale, who started the Oneida Institute at Whitesboro. Mrs. Dr. Kinney outlived her husband, and died in March 1881, at the age of eighty years, revered, respected and loved by a large circle of friends. A stately, appropriate monument in the Mannsville cemetery marks the resting places of the three families of the Wardwell's, Mann's and Kinney's.

Of the family of Dr. J. Milton Mann, who came from Hudson to Whitesboro, as before stated, the eldest daughter, Eliza, married in 1810, Theodore Sill, as before mentioned. She died April 29, 1849. She was the mother of Mrs. Calvert Comstock. Eloisa, another daughter, became the wife of John B. Rumney, formerly

of England, but who resided, I believe, prior to 1848, in the western part of the State, and subsequently moved South; she died quite suddenly at or near Alexandria, Va., in October, 1849. Sarah J., another daughter, became the wife of Thomas D. Burrall, of Geneva, prominently connected with the invention, manufacture or sale of agricultural implements; she died in April, 1831. Mary E., the only unmarried daughter of that family, will be remembered even by later residents of Whitesboro, as a very intelligent and cultivated lady; she died in Rome about fifteen years ago. John B. Mann, the only son, died in Rome at the residence of his sister, Mrs. Sill, in the winter of 1848–9.

Dr. Seth Capron, although the last mentioned of those three families, was not by any means, the least in importance; on the contrary, he may be justly ranked among the first of the leading men of Whitesboro, or in Central New York. He was forty-five years of age when he moved to Whitesboro, was a man of family, and stood high in the medical profession. He had seen much service in the war of the Revolution, was at the siege of Newport, attached to the staff of LaFayette, where he came near losing his life by a cannon ball which grazed his head, that was aimed at the life of his General. He was at the battle of White Plains, and during the rest of the war, after that battle, was under Washington. It was not until the return of peace that he commenced his medical studies. He then entered the office of Dr. Bezaleel Mann, whose second daughter he subsequently married. He came to Whitesboro as before mentioned, and in a year or two afterward gave so much attention to manufactures and other pursuits that he can hardly be said, after his removal to this county, to have been a practicing physician. He was originator of the scheme, and with the co-operation of B. S. Walcott, Newton Mann, Theodore Sill, Thomas R. Gold, and a few others started on Sauquoit Creek the first works for the manufacture of cotton erected in this State. Dr. Capron had the main charge, and large numbers of merino sheep were imported from Spain at a heavy expense, some costing as high as $600 and $1,000 each. There were large fields of them kept across the river, and one of the farms was called "Mount Merino." Dr. Capron was small in stature, but he made up by his great physical and mental activity and large business capacity and ability. He never seemed more happy than when engaged in the most extensive enterprises that called into requisition all of his energies and the powers of his mind. He was as active in the peaceful pursuits of life as he had

been in the stirring times of the Revolution. For a dozen years or so he was thus engaged at Whitesboro, but at last financial embarrassments overtook him, and he lost his property. He then removed to Oriskany, took charge of the woolen mills there, but in 1825 he left the county and located at Walden, in Orange county, and there established far more extensive factories than he was able to do in this county. Ten years later, after an illness of but one day, he died at the age of seventy-four years. He had four sons. John, Newton, Seth and Horace. Dr. Seth Capron, Jr., was a physician, and Horace, the well-known General Horace Capron.* The success which attended and the grand results which followed the establishment of those cotton works at Whitestown are of themselves sufficient to embalm the memory of their founders in the hearts of their countrymen. That class of men gave to Whitesboro its golden age. Dr. Bagg has rendered a most valuable service to the whole country by the exhaustive paper read by him before the Oneida Historical Society in July, 1879, relative to that branch of Oneida county's industries.

S. Newton Dexter.

In the year 1815 there located in Whitesboro a married man of thirty years of age, of great industry and force of character, and who subsequently demonstrated his ability and capacity to undertake and carry forward more extensive, and a greater variety of business enterprises, than any other man who ever lived in that village. S. Newton Dexter was to Whitestown, as well as to every other locality where his active mind and enterprising spirit found work to do, the life and soul of thriving manufacturing industries, and an active and prominent participator in everything that tended to promote the prosperity of a place, or the culture and education of its people. He was a fit successor to the Manns and Caprons, to carry on the great enterprises they had inaugurated. The great-grandfather of Mr. Dexter was a graduate of Harvard College, and for many years pastor of a Congregational Church in Massachusetts. His grandfather, before the war of the Revolution, was an eminent importing merchant of Boston, and at his death bequeathed a handsome endowment to Harvard, the income of which went to the Professor of Biblical Literature. His father was the first manufacturer of cotton goods in

*Gen. Capron Ex-U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, died at his home in Washington, on the night of February 22, 1885, from a cold taken at the dedicatory ceremonies at the Washington Monument, the previous day, at the age of 73 years.

the United States, and an enterprising business man. With such an ancestry, and such noble examples and worthy incentives before him, it would be quite natural to expect something worthy and of like character from the descendant. S. Newton Dexter was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1785, and in due time entered Brown University, where his elder brother had graduated in 1801; but the activity of his mind and his restless desire for a more busy and active life, led him to leave school before he had graduated, and engage in business in Boston. In 1815 he removed to Whitesboro, where he resided, with temporary exceptions, for forty-seven years of his life. He engaged at first in a mercantile pursuit, his store being on the corner of Maine and Mohawk streets. That was on the eve of the construction of the Erie canal, and Mr. Dexter's large business capacity soon led him into other pursuits, and into much larger and more diversified fields of labor. In 1817 he had a large contract for the construction of a section of the canal which led through what is now the city of Syracuse, but then a swamp. In 1824, he undertook a heavy contract on the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, which occupied five years of his time and which involved an expenditure of over $2,000,000. That work was completed to the entire satisfaction of the directors, as evidenced by their complimentary resolutions on Mr. Dexter and his work. He was a stockholder in the Oriskany woolen factory, a company formed four years before he moved to Whitesboro, with a capital of $200,000, and having among its original stockholders Chief Justice Ambrose Spencer, Jonas Platt, William G. Tracy, Newton Mann, Thomas R. Gold, Theodore Sill and DeWitt Clinton. Mr. Dexter, subsequent to his canal contracts, took charge as agent of those woolen mills, and by his executive ability, and the use of his own funds, restored the credit of the company and brought back to it business and public confidence, at a time when it was on the verge of bankruptcy. Through his agency the Dexter Manufacturing Company was organized in 1832, with a capital of $100,000, and its location fixed at Pleasant Valley, a short distance from Oriskany, where it flourished and thrived during the rest of Mr. Dexter's life. About the same time that company was formed, Mr. Dexter became largely interested in other manufacturing enterprises in Elgin, Ill., and also in Jefferson county in this State. The little village in the town of Brownsville in the last named county, at the head of Black River Bay, and which had theretofore borne the name of "Fish Island," was made in 1837, by the means and

influence of Mr. Dexter, the seat of large manufacturing establishments. One thousand acres of land were purchased and laid out into village lots, the village in compliment to its founder was named "Dexter," and now contains some six hundred inhabitants. In 1829, Mr. Dexter was elected one of the first trustees, and the first president of the village of Whitestown. He was the first president of the Bank of Whitestown, and held that position from 1838 to 1853. In 1840 he was appointed Canal Commissioner by Governor Seward, and in 1850 was appointed by Governor Hamilton Fish one of the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, which position he held until his death. There were many other pioneer and business enterprises in which he was engaged, the ultimate success of which demonstrated his foresight, far-reaching sagacity and business ability. In the midst of all these varied duties, and the multiplicity of his cares and labors, he was not neglectful of works of art nor of the causes of education and religion. His library was well stored with works of a standard character, and his mind with useful knowledge. His conversational powers were great, his informantion varied and extensive, and his manners easy, social and polite. Hamilton College numbered no stronger friend or benefactor among its list of supporters than Mr. Dexter, his benefactions to that institution aggregating some $23,000. The first wife of Mr. Dexter was Laura Northrup, of Athens, in this State; they were married four years before his removal to Whitesboro; she died in 1846. His second wife was the widow of Thomas R. Gold, Jr., she outlived him, and is yet a resident of Whitesboro. Mr. Dexter died November 18, 1862, at the age of seventy-seven years, and an appropriate monument in the Whitesboro cemetery marks his resting place. Mr. Dexter left two children; Andrew, the son, was with his father in the manufacturing enterprises, and lived at Whitesboro, and also at Utica. His wife was a daughter of Theodore S. Gold. I believe they now reside in New York city. The only daughter of S. Newton Dexter became the wife of Prof. North, of Hamilton College. She died in 1869, and the tender and touching address of Prof. Upson at her funeral bears witness to her high Christian character, and to those noble traits which she possessed as daughter, wife and mother, which make up the highest types of womanhood.

Is it a wonder that Whitesboro had such a golden age, when such persons as I have enumerated contributed to and made part of its history?

Lewis Berry and His Family.

In 1802, a man with a wife and several small children came from Washington county, in this State, and located at or near what is Lairdsville, in the town of Westmoreland, in this county, and there engaged in mercantile pursuits. That merchant was Lewis Berry. He was originally from New Jersey, where his father was one of the King's Justices of the Peace at the breaking out of the Revolution, but who took sides with the Colonists. The first Berry who crossed the Atlantic for America was an escaped prisoner from Sterling Castle, where he was confined under sentence of death, for the part he took in behalf of the house of Stuart in the bloody contest with Cromwell and the Parliamentary party. At the time Mr. Berry commenced his mercantile career in Westmoreland, the county was new and sparsely populated, the people poor, trade limited, and business neither extensive nor prosperous. In a few years, by reason of overtrade or lack of patronage, Mr. Berry became embarrassed in his circumstances, judgments were obtained against him, his store of goods and his real estate were sold out by the sheriff, and as imprisonment for debt was then the law of the land, he was taken into custody and placed upon "the limits" at Whitesboro. That was about 1807. This misfortune was no disparagement to Mr. Berry's abilities or integrity, nor did it serve in the least to discredit or discourage him. He seemed to be not unmindful of the fact that they are the greatest and noblest who meet life's necessities with the bravest heart and the fewest murmurs, and who do to the best of their ability whatever is given unto them to do. Out of this nettle of danger he plucked the flower of safety. He commenced keeping "tavern" in the old tavern stand of Daniel C. White, opposite the village green, a little easterly of the residence of Mrs. W. L. Wetmore, and where the first town meeting of Whitestown was held in 1789. At the time of Mr. Berry's compulsory removal to Whitesboro, that village had become an important and prominent locality. It was one of the county seats, and was the abode of some of the most influential men in this part of the State. It was a good location for a well regulated and a well kept "tavern" as hotels were styled in those days, and the place where judges, lawyers and the best class would congregate when courts were held in that villiage, and where travelers would stop on their way through the central part of the State. It was just such a stopping place as was then greatly needed, and Mr. Berry took in the

situation at a glance, and set to work to supply the pressing need. No one now living can remember how Mr. Berry kept that house, although the oldest inhabitants just remember that he did keep it for awhile; but there are many yet alive, who well remember, and have a pleasant recollection too, of the "tavern," or perhaps more properly speaking, of the boarding house Mr. Berry kept, on the site next to Judge Platt's residence, for nearly or quite forty years of his life. As early as 1795 Nathaniel Platt kept a store on that site, and in 1802 Richard M. Harrison, a brother of Mrs. Dr. Elizur Moseley, was in trade there; not far from 1810 it was converted into a tavern stand, and Mr. Berry seems to have been the first occupant and the only one so long as he lived. There are yet so many among the living who remember Mr. Berry and his well kept house that it is pleasant to refer to them and to speak in unqualified praise of both. It was a popular resort at the sessions of the court in Whitesboro and for travelers who would make a long day's journey to reach that road-side inn rather than to pass a night or take a meal at a less attractive place. It was widely and favorably known throughout the State, and was to Whitesboro what "Bagg's Tavern" and hotel years ago were to Utica, Congress Hall to Albany, and the Astor House to New York, where men of culture and of quiet habits loved to gather, because there they were sure to meet men of their own tastes, and to find a place of respectability and of home-like attractions. Mr. Berry, too, was a cultured and cultivated gentleman of genial and polite manners, social in his intercourse, and highly entertaining and instructive in conversation. He was a general favorite wherever known, and respected and liked by all his neighbors. It is handed down as one of the traditions of his times, that when he was placed upon "the limits," some thirty or forty of his farmer country neighbors made a "bee" and brought him in the winter as many loads of wood and piled it in his yard or woodshed, as sufficed for the year's use. This was repeated the next year and the next, and so on until it became one of the regular yearly customs of his country friends. Mr. Berry was too generous and kind hearted to let such occasions pass unnoticed, and so he made each one of these occasions a joyful and festive one by providing for the teams which drew the wood, and furnishing to all the persons who came a sumptuous dinner, a cordial welcome and a liberal entertainment. No doubt the expense to him of such entertainments was much beyond the value of the fuel that was brought; but he appreciated the feelings that prompted his friends

to do these deeds of kindness—yes, to keep up the custom in remembrance and as a reminder of by-gone years, and he was too kind, genial and generous to wish for the discontinuance. He had that touch of human nature which made him feel the whole world was his kin, and that each living being was a member of one common brotherhood. I am told by those who knew him best that to none was he more kind, attentive and sympathetic than to those young men of limited means, who, struggling with poverty and manfully battling with life, came to Whitesboro to attend school or to pursue their legal studies. Those he unobstrusely sought out, and invited and strongly urged to make his house their boarding place, with full permission to pay him whenever they could, or not at all, if they were never able. Mr. Berry took great interest in politics, and was a Federalist while that party was in existence, and an equally ardent Whig in later years. Although he bore a most striking resemblance, it is said, to General Andrew Jackson, yet Mr. Berry was his bitter political opponent. Henry Clay was his beau ideal of a statesman, and it well nigh broke his heart when that gallant chieftain lost the Presidential race of 1844. He lived, however, and took part in another presidential contest four years later, but not with equal heart or ardor. Time was laying its heavy hand upon him, and although he had lost four children, all in infancy, yet it had been over twenty years since death had invaded his household. It came, however, in March, 1849, and this time took the head of the family. At the age of eighty-two years, Lewis Berry was called from earth, and his remains were laid away in the cemetery which overlooked the village where he had passed over forty years of his life.

Three years later, another link of that family circle was missing in the person of the brightest, the most gifted and the most widely known of the children. Six months thereafter death came again, and this time took the youngest-born of the family. The next year another of these children died, and in 1855 she who had been for over sixty years the wife of Lewis Berry, the mother of fifteen children, passed away at the age of eighty-two—the age of her husband when he died six years before. The next year two more daughters died, and thus, within the space of seven years, the village church bell of Whitesboro had tolled for seven funerals in that family.

I have said there were fifteen children, four of whom died in infancy, and I think before Mr. Berry removed to Whitesboro. The oldest son was Wendell Berry, born in 1793, who was about

fourteen years old when his father located in Whitesboro. He attended Mr. Halsey's school, graduated in 1815 from Hamilton College, read law, was admitted to the bar, and about 1819 moved to and opened a law office in Mayville, Chautauqua county, where he died in 1828, at the age of thirty-five. Morris Miller Berry was the second son, and the fourth child. He also was a pupil of Mr. Halsey, but received from Rev. John Frost the finishing touches to his education, preparatory to entering Hamilton College, at which institution he graduated in 1817 at the age of eighteen. He read law with Nathan Williams, of Utica; was admitted to practice in October, 1820, and soon after opened a law office in Massena, St. Lawrence county; but the law was not to his tastes or likings. He had much literary ability, was well read and well informed, could and did write fine pieces of poetry, both of a serious and humorous character, contributed able articles for the press and wrote essays and addresses of fine literary merit; but he was diffident and unassuming, and could not face a court, jury or audience, although he could write articles that would sensibly touch the reader or hearer, or set them in roars of laughter.

After his admission to the bar, rather than practice law, he taught schools in the rural districts, boarded around among the patrons, as was and is customary in country districts; he also wrote considerably and very acceptably for newspapers and magazines. He was not long absent from Whitesboro, after his admission to the bar. During the "Washingtonian movement" and temperance revival of about 1842 he wrote, at the request of Rev. Beriah Green, a temperance address, to be delivered in an evening at Whitesboro. The evening came and so did a large audience; Mr. Berry arose and got as far as "Fellow Citizens," and there his tongue balked and refused to budge another inch or to utter another word; he sat down and other speakers finished the meeting. Another evening was appointed for the address, and again a large audience and Mr. Berry were there. After great effort and much halting and hesitation he went through with his lecture, but he said it was the greatest struggle of his life; and yet Mr. Green said that lecture, as to its style as a literary production, would have done no discredit to Addison, and for solid arguments and apt illustrations, was equal to the best made on that subject. He was Postmaster of Whitesboro during the administration of Harrison and Tyler, but was rotated out of office in 1845 by the administration of President Polk. From 1846 to 1866 he was in the book trade at Saratoga, and for five

years afterwards was librarian at Divinity Hall in Philadelphia; later he removed to Washington and died in that city in January, 1881, at the age of eighty-two years—the same age that his father and mother were when they died. He left a widow but no children. At the time of his death he was, with one or two exceptions, the oldest alumnus of Hamilton College, and but a few who read the notice of his death were aware that he was once one of the early residents of Whitesboro, and among the brightest and best informed of those who gave to that place its golden age. His remains are in the cemetery at Saratoga. In 1845 he married Miss Eugenia Dorland, of Poughkeepsie, who yet survives him.

Lewis F. Berry was another son; he was a bookkeeper and always a resident of Whitestown. He was trustee of the village from 1836 to 1842; he died at Yorkville in January, 1869, at the age of sixty, leaving a widow now residing West, and three daughters. John was the youngest born of Lewis Berry's children, was a machinist and was never married; he died in July, 1852, at the age of thirty-two. There were seven daughters, four of whom never married; of this four, Jane H., died in 1810, at the age of sixteen years; she is said to have been very beautiful; Wealthy Ann, died in September, 1853, at the age of fifty-five; Mary died in December, 1856; Cornelia in April, 1872, at the age of about sixty. Of the married daughters, Elizabeth was the fifth daughter, and the first one married. Those who remember her in her beauty and prime, as she was fifty years ago, tell me she was bright, fascinating, beautiful, cultivated and the belle of society. She was one of the thirteen white-robed maidens who joined in the procession that gave welcome to LaFayette when he visited Whitesboro in June, 1825. The introductions to citizens were on the grounds of Judge Platt, the reception by the committee at the house of her father. She became the wife of Hon. O. L. Barbour, who read law with Wheeler Barnes, of Rome, and whom lawyers know as the author of the sixty-seven volumes of "Barbour's Supreme Court Reports," "Barbour's Chancery Practice," and "Magistrate's Criminal Law"—the last two works, the best of the kind to be found in a lawyer's library. She died at Saratoga in October, 1856, at the age of about fifty. Frances Miriam was eleventh child in the family. In early life she was peculiarly bright and gifted, and exhibited unusual talents as a writer of both prose and poetry, and in her pencil sketches and "off hand takings" of the foibles and peculiarities of

man and womankind. In these regards she was much like her brother Morris Miller, although he never attained the reputation or acquired the celebrity she worked out for herself. She was a favorite contributor to *Godey's Lady's Book* and *Neal's Saturday Gazette*, and those periodicals were greatly sought for during the time her articles were running through their columns. Most of the "Widow Bedott Papers," of which she was the authoress, were written after her marriage in 1847, and were dramatized after her death. Tradition has it that most of the humorous characters in these papers were taken from real life, and that two libel suits were commenced by different persons, each plaintiff claiming she was the woman referred to in the character of "Mrs. Sampson Savage." No one remembers that either of these libel suits culminated in a trial. Great as was Frances Miriam's talents in this vein of writing, yet it is said she shone to better advantage, and exhibited greater strength of mind and more poetic genius in articles of a serious kind. Fragmentary poems of hers, which from time to time appeared in print, were reckoned among the sweetest and best of any which were then being published. She is remembered as among the foremost of humorous writers of that kind of humor above mentioned, and I think I am safe in saying that Whitesboro, even in its golden days, has produced no more gifted or talented lady than she. In 1847 she became the wife of Rev. B. W. Whitcher, now and for many years a resident of Whitesboro. She died January 4, 1852, at the age of forty-one. She has but one child, Mrs. W. S. Wood, of Muskegon, Michigan. Katherine Berry was the youngest of the daughters; she, too, possessed much literary ability, and for many years was a valuable contributor to newspapers and magazines. In 1855 she became the wife of Colonel H. P. Potter, for many years a resident of Whitesboro, but now a resident of Ballston Springs. She died in 1865 at the age of forty-eight years. None of the sons of Lewis Berry had a son, and hence the family name is not perpetuated among his descendants; nor are there any grandsons among his daughters except in the family of his daughter Elizabeth.

The Curtenius Family.

Whitesboro at an early day took great interest in maintaining good schools, and having as teachers therein those who were highly educated and ranked among the foremost in their profession. This painstaking gave the society and the schools of

Whitesboro a good reputation abroad, and served to induce many to settle in that locality for the purpose of enjoying that society, and at the same time reaping for their children the benefit of those schools. In 1818 there came to Whitesboro to reside a widow with five children of her own, besides two of her late husband's by a former marriage. This lady was Mrs. Peter Curtenius. Her husband had been a wealthy merchant in New York city, was the owner of many thousands of acres of land in Oswego county, which as early as 1795 had been conveyed to him by the patentee, George Scriba; he was also the owner of a large tract of land in Steuben township, in this county, and, in his day, was a wealthy and prominent merchant and citizen in New York. He was born in that city and always lived there. In 1804 he was Member of Assembly from New York, two years later was appointed by President Jefferson United States Marshall for the southern district of the State, held that office until 1811, when he was reappointed by President Madison, and continued until 1814. I learn that his first commission, bearing the autograph signature of President Jefferson, is now in the possession of his daughter at Whitesboro. Allow me to suggest by way of parenthesis, whether the Oneida Historical Society had not better make the effort to procure that document for a deposit among its archives? Mr. Curtenius died not far from 1817, and on the removal of the family in 1818 to Whitesboro, Mrs. Curtenius purchased the Arthur Breese mansion, which stood on the hill, near the cemetery, giving in exchange one thousand acres of the Oswego lands. That mansion had been the residence of Gideon Granger and family during their several years' residence in Whitesboro. As those seven children became educated, and matured, they scattered in various directions, and the sons engaged in different avocations. The two sons by the first marriage never married; the oldest one died in New York city in 1833, and the other one in Kalamazoo in 1866. The eldest son by the second marriage, was John; after completing his education he read law with Storrs & White, was admitted to the bar, and in 1820 married Mary F., a daughter of Judge Young, founder of Youngstown, Ohio, and granddaughter of Judge Hugh White, the pioneer settler of Whitestown. He removed to Buffalo, practiced law there, but subsequently removed to Utica, where he died in 1871; he was father of Mrs. Edward S. Brayton, of Utica. Alfred G. Curtenius, the next son, after his school days were over, engaged actively and extensively in business, married in 1842 Miss

Antoinette Tracy, of Utica, moved West and accumulated a large fortune, and died in Peoria, Illinois, in 1857. Frederick W., was another son; he attended Hamilton College, read law and was admitted to practice and located in Kalamazoo, where he married in 1867, and is now engaged in the practice of his profession at the age of seventy-six years. Of the two daughters of Mrs. Curtenius, one married in 1824, William Walcott, uncle of William D. Walcott of New York Mills. She died in Utica in 1846. Helen M., the other daughter, was married in 1839 to William S. Wetmore, grandson of one of Whitesboro's pioneer settlers; he was a lawyer, admitted to the bar about 1831, was County Superintendent of Schools about 1845, and died in 1846; his widow is yet a resident of Whitesboro, and has been for almost sixty-four years. None of the children were born in Whitesboro, and none have died there, and Mrs. Wetmore and her brother, Frederick W. Curtenius, are the only survivors of those seven children. To her clear, ready and active memory, I am indebted for many interesting facts concerning Whitesboro's early history.

The Stryker Family.

In 1819, there came to that village to locate, and to educate her children, another widow, with a family of sons and daughters. That family was the widow and children of Daniel P. Stryker, late of Orange, New Jersey. The schools of Whitesboro were an inducement for their coming, and another one was that the widow of Rev. Bethuel Dodd, then a resident of Whitesboro and childless, was a sister of Mrs. Stryker. Daniel P. Stryker was a merchant in Orange, but always of feeble health and of consumptive tendencies; he took cold while crossing the water between Orange and New York, was ill but a short time, and died in 1815, leaving the above family, four of the children being sons, and the eldest of them but six years of age at the father's death. This family on its removal to Whitesboro moved into the house of Mrs. Dodd and the inmates constituted but one family. In 1823 the only daughter and one of these sons died in the same week of scarlet fever; in 1831 another son died, leaving but two of that family of children. The eldest of those two sons, John Stryker, attended the school of Mr. Rawson, having for his schoolmates Charles Tracy, Henry Platt and F. W. Curtenius. He had in view mercantile pursuits, and was for a while clerk in the store of William G. Tracy. At the suggestion of Thomas R. Gold he left Mr. Tracy's store and became student at law in that noted

lawyer's office, and soon became confidential clerk and manager of his office and keeper of the law register. It was in October, 1827, while Mr. Stryker was absent in Vernon for a day to transact law business with Timothy Jenkins, that he learned on his way back that Mr. Gold, during his absence, had suddenly died. Mr. Stryker finished his legal studies in the office of Storrs & White, and in 1829 was admitted to the Oneida Common Pleas, before he was twenty-one years old. That same year he removed to Rome and formed a law partnership with Allanson Bennett, then and subsequently quite a prominent and well known lawyer in this county. Subsequently Mr. Stryker was law partner of ex-Judge Foster, of Charles Tracy, Calvert Comstock and B. J. Beach. He never appeared much in courts as an advocate, or in the argument of causes, yet he was a good practitioner and always controlled a large share of lucrative business. At an early age he had a great liking for politics, and at once embarked in its successful manipulations, its mysteries and uncertainties, and became one of the chief and leading actors and prominent factors in the democratic party. At the early age of twenty-three (in 1832) he was delegated at a meeting of citizens of Rome to go to Albany to aid in the procurement of the passage of a law chartering the "Bank of Rome;" he was eminently successful, and while there made the acquaintance and life-long friendship and respect of such magnates in the democratic party as William L. Marcy, Silas Wright, Edwin Croswell, Samuel Young and A. C. Flagg. In 1835 he was elected to the Assembly, the particular object and occasion of his going, being to secure the passage of a charter for the Syracuse and Utica Railroad Company, and to see that its location should be via Rome. In 1837 he was appointed Surrogate of the county and he held that office for ten years, and until the Constitution of 1846 made the office elective. No man in the country has been more active in politics, or has attended more State and National conventions, or had a greater influence than he in the management of and in shaping the policy and politics of his party, during the forty years and more that he was a prominent participator; and it is doubtful if there were any in the ranks whose shrewdness and tact were more generally acknowledged and followed. He has been prominently connected with railroad and other public enterprises, and I can well remember the time when a pass or a line from Hon. John Stryker would "dead head" a person over as many railroads and steamboat lines as one now would from Jay Gould or Wm. H. Vanderbilt. Mr. Stryker is seventy-three years of age,

yet his mind is as clear and as active, and his memory as retentive, as when in his prime. He can remember events and occurrences of fifty and sixty years ago, even to the minutest details, telling who were the leading delegates at a district, county, State or National convention, what the issue was, and how the vote stood, and the sides the prominent actors took, and what turned the scale, with as much particularity and exactness, as if the events were of yesterday. And to-day he takes the same lively interest as of yore in all that concerns politics and parties, and the welfare and best interest of the Government and his country, and is as well posted, as when he was an active participator in its affairs. The wife of Mr. Stryker is a daughter of Hon. Thomas H. Hubbard, late of Utica, a prominent citizen and able lawyer in his day, and who was the first Surrogate (in 1806) of Madison county, and from 1816 to 1818 Deputy Attorney General of the district, then composed of the counties of Oneida, Otsego, Chenango, Herkimer and Lewis; and from 1818 to 1821 District Attorney of Madison county, and member of Congress from that county six years, and presidential elector in 1812, 1844 and 1852.

Rev. Isaac P. Stryker was the youngest of that family of five children. He attended the "Oneida Institute" in 1834, graduated from Auburn Theological Seminary, and about 1840 entered the ministry. He was pastor of the Presbyterian Churches at Urbana, Watkins and in other places, and for some thirty years was actively and usefully engaged in the duties of his sacred calling. Rev. Mr. Stryker has retired from the active duties of the ministry, and is now leading a life of quiet retirement in the village where his widowed mother and her five orphan children located over sixty years ago. That mother died at the residence of her son, Hon. John Stryker, in Rome, about 1832. The first wife of Rev. Mr. Stryker was a daughter of Commodore Woolsey.

Gideon and Francis Granger.

Among the many notable persons who were residents of Whitesboro prior to 1820, was Gideon Granger. He was from Connecticut, and was a leading and prominent lawyer there. He was elected in 1793 member of the Legislature in that State, and was several times re-elected, and to his exertions is that State principally indebted for its school fame. In 1801 he was appointed by President Jefferson, Postmaster General, and continued for eight years, and was reappointed to the same position in 1808, when President Madison assumed the duties of the presidential office,

and continued until 1814, when he resigned. About that time he moved to Whitesboro and occupied the dwelling known as the "Breese Mansion." His son, Francis Granger, had graduated a few years before from Yale College, and on the removal of the family to Whitesboro, the son became a student at law in the office of Gold & Sill. Not far from 1818, the Granger family moved to Canandaigua, and in 1819 the father was elected to the State Senate, but on account of ill health resigned in 1821. He died on the last day of the year 1822 at the age of fifty-five. He was an able speaker and a powerful writer, and a great friend of internal improvements. He gave 1,000 acres of land in aid of the Erie canal. Francis Granger was elected to the Assembly from Ontario county as a Clintonian in 1825, 1826, 1827 and 1829. The first time he was elected, he was the candidate of his party for Speaker of the Assembly, but was defeated by Gen. Erastus Root. In 1828, at a convention of the "Adams Party," held at Utica, he was nominated for Lieutenant Governor and Smith Thompson for Governor; a little later he was nominated for Governor by the anti-Masons, but he declined that nomination and ran for Lieutenant Governor on the Adams ticket, but was defeated by Enos T. Throop. It was the same year Martin Van Buren was elected Governor. In 1830 Mr. Granger, at the anti-Masonic convention, held at Utica, was nominated for Governor and again defeated by Mr. Throop, the opposing nominee. In 1832 Mr. Granger was a third time nominated for Governor, this last time by the anti-Masons, at a convention held in Utica, and this time he was defeated by William L. Marcy. In 1834 and again in 1836 and 1838 he was elected to Congress, but resigned in 1841 to accept the same office at the hands of President Harrison, which his father, just forty years before, had accepted from President Jefferson. He died in Canandaigua in 1868, at the age of seventy six years.

Finale—Summary.

I have thus briefly sketched most of the more noted families who located in Whitesboro prior to 1820. This has been essential to show the prominence that village occupied and the part its citizens took in the affairs of county, State and Nation, and which gave to the place its golden age. A summary or brief recapitulation of its leading men, and the offices they monopolized while residents of that little hamlet, will indicate their character, position and influence, as well as the importance of the village.

General George Doolittle was the first Brigadier General of the county. Hugh White, County Judge for thirteen consecutive years, from 1791 to 1804. Jonas Platt, County Clerk from 1791 to 1802—during that time Member of Assembly and Member of Congress—State Senator from 1809 to 1813, nominee for Governor in 1809, and Supreme Court Judge from 1814 to 1823. Elizur Moseley, Sheriff in 1799. Thomas R. Gold, State Senator from 1796 to 1803, in the Assembly in 1808, District Attorney from 1797 to 1801, in Congress from 1809 to 1813, and from 1815 to 1817. William Kirkpatrick, in Congress from 1807 to 1809. Arthur Breeze, in the Assembly in 1797, Surrogate for ten years, from 1798 to 1808. Abram Camp, County Clerk from 1813 to 1815, in the Assembly in 1816 and 1817. John B. Pease, Sheriff from 1819 to 1821. William G. Tracy, County Treasurer for twenty years, from 1810 to 1812, and again from 1813 to his death in 1830. Theodore Sill, County Treasurer from 1802 to 1810, Member of Assembly in 1813, 1814 and in 1826, and Brigadier General. Henry R. Storrs in Congress for twelve years, County Judge from 1825 to 1830; Fortune C. White, Assemblyman in 1829 and in 1839, County Judge from 1840 to 1845, and Brigadier General of State Militia. . S. Newton Dexter three years Canal Commissioner. Can any other locality in the State or Nation make such a showing?

There are other persons, doubtless, who resided in Whitesboro prior to 1820, who attained distinction in other localities, and I should be much pleased to pursue the narrative, so as to include not only those omitted, but that other bright array, who came later, and were prominent actors in that little village. But I leave that pleasurable task to others.

Next June it will be ninety-nine years since Hugh White planted his little colony upon the banks of Sadaqueda Creek, and doubtless, in 1884, its Centennial will be observed in a manner becoming its importance, and worthy of the occasion and the grand results which have been produced. No other similar event in history has worked out a grander problem in its effect upon the growth, prosperity and civilization of the country. Those pioneers who thereafter followed the first settler were of a high order of talent, of character and culture; they came, not for speculation, but rather to better, in an honorable way, their own fortunes, and to settle, develop and improve the country. They made a decided impress upon the age in which they lived, and did their full share in the education, civilization and Christianizing of the human race.

The good which they have done lives after them, and is remembered with respect and reverence by a grateful people. These reminiscences of the past, these brief and unsatisfactory sketches of by gone years, are but faint and feeble reminders of the excellent and sterner virtues of a pioneer life—glimpses of the thrift, enterprise, genius and culture of those who gave to Whitesboro its golden age.

APPENDIX:

The First Census of Whitestown, in 1790.

Hon. D. Willers, Jr., of Fayette, Seneca county, who was Secretary of State in 1874 and 1875, has been for some time engaged in gathering materials for a history of his own county, connected with its early history. For the purposes of the contemplated publication, Mr. Willers procured from the interior department at Washington a copy of the first census of the town of Whitestown, made by the United States authorities in 1790, showing the names of the heads of families in the town, the number in each family and other particulars. The law for that census was passed by Congress March 1, 1790, and provided that the enumeration of the inhabitants should commence on the first Monday of August, 1790, and close within nine months thereafter. At that time the town of Whitestown extended as far west as Ontario county.

It is not likely duplicate census returns were made in those days, and in all probability the one on file in the department, is the only one extant. Mr. Willers has kindly forwarded the copy procured by him, for the purpose of having the same placed in the rooms of the Oneida Historical Society, for preservation and future reference. The list commences with the name of Jedediah Sanger. The names thus enumerated are not arranged alphabetically, nor is there any indication as to who resided at "Old Fort Schuyler" (now Utica,) Fort Stanwix (now Rome,) New Hartford, Kirkland, Paris, Whitesboro and Westmoreland—those being the localities where about all of the inhabitants of what was then the town of Whitestown, then resided. A fire in the patent office in 1877 injured some of the records, and a few of the given names on this census list are disfigured, and mostly obliterated, as appears below.

I have arranged the names in alphabetical order, and (as far as I have been able to ascertain from history, records and ancient documents) have indicated where most of the persons were located in 1790, as regards the towns, mostly in this county,* as at present organized.

The orthography of the names as appears on the census returns, has been copied, and the correct spelling given in brackets. This census pretty clearly shows who were residents of Whitestown at that early period, although there is evidence there were other residents of Whitestown in 1790 not included in it. For instance: Jones' Annals of Oneida County records that in 1789 the families of Ezra Parker, Ephraim Waldo and Nathan Waldo located in what is now the town of Bridgewater; that in March, 1790, the families of John Butler, Sylvester Butler and Asa Shepard settled at or near Sauquoit; that in March and April, 1789, the families of Benjamin Barnes, Jr., John Humaston, Aaron Simmons, Adam Simmons and Abel Simmons located on Paris Hill. Clark's history of Onondaga county records that Ephraim Webster was located near the mouth of Onondaga creek in 1786; and Jones' Annals that said Webster located at Oriskany about 1784, and in 1786 removed to Onondaga. It is also recorded in the history of Onondaga county that in 1788 Asa Danforth and Asa Danforth, Jr., and Comfort Tyler located at Onondaga valley.

It is quite likely that most of the persons whose precise location is not given, resided in what is now Onondaga county.

Jacob Morris was the census enumerator. The footings are as follows:

Number of free white males of 16 years and upwards,	689
Number of free white males under 16,	443
Number of free white females,	749
Number of slaves,	3
Number not included in above,	7
Total population,	1,891

D. E. W.

*Dr. Bagg and others have since located about forty names in addition, which are here included.

Names of Male Heads of Families.

BRIDGEWATER.

Farewell, Joseph

DEERFIELD.

Damewood [Damoth], Richard
Fanning, William
Shearman, James

KIRKLAND.

Bullen, David
Bullen, John
Blodgett, Rufus
Blodgett, Elijah
Blodgett, Ludim
Blanchard, Andrew
Butler, Ebenezer
Butler, Ebenezer, Jr.
Butler, Salmon
Bristol, Eli
Bristol, Joel
Carpenter, William
Cassady [Cassety], Thomas
Curtis, Jesse
Catlin, Jessie
Cook, William
Eastman, Peter
Ellenwood, Hannaniah
Foot, Moses
Foot, Luther
Foot, Ira
Foot, Bronson
Ferguson, Samuel
Ferguson, Samuel, Sr.
Fancher, Thomas
Gridley, Abraham
Gridley, Jobe
Hubbard, Thomas
Hovey, Solomon
Kirkland, Samuel
Kellogg, Amos
Marsh, John
Marsh, Samuel
Marsh, Asa
Munroe, Theodore
Markham, Stephen
Merrell, Caleb B.
Pond, Timothy
Pond, Barnabas
Stebbens, Judah
Stebbens, Judah, Jr.
Tuttle, Timothy
Willard, Lewis
Willard, Rufus

NEW HARTFORD.

Blair, Joel
Bushnell, Stephen
Blodgett, Solomon
Beach, Ashbel
Cook, Trueworthy
Collins, Oliver
Gaylord, Jotham
Gurney, Bezelial
Hale, Memon
Haminway, Isaac
Higby, Joseph
Ives, Amos
Jennings, Joseph
Jewett, Samuel
Kellogg, Jesse
Kellogg, Jacob
Kellogg, Frederick W.
Kellogg, Freeman
Kellogg, Aaron
Kellogg, Solomon
Kellogg, Stephen
Miller. Amoch
Olmstead, Ashbel
Olmstead, Gamaliel
Risley, Allen
Risley, Elijah
Savage, Guideon [Gideon]
Staples, George
Sanger, Jedediah
Seward, Nathan
Wells, Samuel
Williams, Thomas
Williams, Ezekiel

PARIS.

Coolage, Charles
Barnes, Benjamin
Barrett, Stephen
Barrett, Benjamin
Barrett, Isaac
Davis, Elijah
Fowler, Reuben
Griffin, Kirkland
Hopkins, Elias
Kellogg, Phineas

Lummas, [Loomis] Ladoc
Plumb, Joseph
Porter, Raphel
Rice, [Royce] Amaziah
Rice, Hezekiah
Rice, William
Shearman, Levy
Thompson, Alpheus

ROME.

Andrus, David
Colbreath, William
Demont, Joseph
French, Jasper
Fellows, Roswell [Rozel]
Gilbert, Nathaniel
Knight, Daniel W.
Phelps, Jedediah
Perkins, Silas
Robbins, Ephraim
Ranney, **eth [Seth]
Ranny, **illett [Willett]
Ranny, James
Smith, Bill
Wright, ** er [Ebenezer]
Wright, ** as [Thomas]

STEUBEN.

Sizer, Samuel

UTICA.

Alberson [Alverson], Uriah
Bellinger, John
Brown, Daniel
Christman, Jacob
Clark, Aaron
Harris, Joseph
Morey, Solomon
Morey, Sylvanus
Nutting, Simeon
Post, John
Potter, Stephen
Parker, Jason
Rust, Samuel
Sailes, Darius
Saule, Joseph
Smith, Peter
Smith, Nathan
Smith, James
Wells, Arnold

VERNON.

Brownson, Solomon

WESTERN.

Beckwith, Asa
Beckwith, Reuben
Wager, Henry

WESTMORELAND.

Blackmer, Ephraim
Blackmer, Joseph
Blackmer, Joseph, Jr.
Brigham, Stephen
Brigham, Lyman
Blair, John
Collins, Samuel
Cone, Walter
Chittington, Gerard
[Chittenden, Jared]
Dean, James
Dean, Jonathan
Dean, William
Gleason, Solomon
Gleason, Joseph
Griffin, Natheeneil
Jones, Nehemiah
Jones, Joseph
Laird, Samuel
Laird, John
Lummas [Loomis], Nathan
Lummas [Loomis], Isaac
Parkman, Alexander
Phelps, Silas
Phelps, Jacob
Phelps, Joseph
Rogers, Simeon
Smith, Amos
Smith, Elijah
Stillman, Samuel
Stillman, John,
Townsend, Nathaniel
Townsend, John

WHITESTOWN.

Badcock, [Babcock] David
Barnard, Moses
Brainard, Jeptha
Beardsley, John
Doolittle, George
Ensign, Samuel
Ferguson, James
Goodrich, Rosel [Roswell]
Holt, Justice [Isaac]
Kane, Elisha

Leavenworth, Lemuel
Maynard, Needham
Pool, Simeon
Root, Joseph, Sr.
Steel, Seth
Seymour, Uriah
Towny, John
Whitmore, [Wetmore] Amos
Whitmore, [Wetmore] Parsons
Wilcox, Ozias
White, Hugh
White, Hugh, Jr.
White, Daniel C.
White, Ansel
White, Joseph
White, Philo
Wilson, John
Winch, Samuel

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Angier, John

NORWICH, HERK. CO.

Fowell, [Farwell, Dr.,] Isaac

PERSONS WHOSE PRECISE LOCALITIES ARE UNKNOWN.

Arnold, Hopkins
Allen, Gideon
Allen, John
Allen, Jeremiah
Ames, Robert
Austin, Nathaniel
Allen, Thomas
Arnold, David
Armstrong, Archibald
Ailworth, Phillip
Allen, Isaac
Atwater, Asaph
Brannan, Seabury
Barnard, Samuel
Belnap, John
Blodgett, Joseph
Ballard, Luke
Blount, Samuel
Barnes, Asa
Barker, Simeon
Brown, Levy
Badcock, [Babcock,] Jonathan
Briggs, William
Bronson, Asiel
Clary, William
Cone, Osias
Cutter, Joseph
Cook, Samuel
Cook, Selah
Cook, Samuel
Cleveland, Gardner
Cergil, James
Collister, James
Coughlin, John
Coughlin, John, Jr.
Crandle, John
Case, Benjamin
Dunn, Joseph
Drury, Josiah
Davis, Joshua
Dewey, Elias
Eno, John
Fortune, Enoch
Fisk, Abraham
Graves, Nathaniel
Groves,——tine [Valentine]
Graves, Jacob
Gibbs, Zenas
Guile, Elijah
Gridley, ——eadorus
Gillett, Timothy
Hall, Barnabas
Humphrey, Noah
Hall, Jonathan
Hale, Thomas
Hayden, Jonathan
Huggins, William
Higgins, Edward
Hulvert, Joshua
Hubbard, Baxter
Hawkins, Widow
Hawkins, David
Harrison, Elisha
Howard, Stephen
Hawley, Rice
Hammond, Benjamin
House & Pearce (?)
Ingram, Joseph
Johnstone, * * * sa
Keltz, Philip
Kelsey, Nathan
King, * * * us
Meyer, ———
Merriman, Christopher

Mills, Kanah
McIntire, James
Morse, Joshua
Nurse, Jonathan
Noyes, Amos
Newell, Elisha
Peters, Benjamin
Paine, Joshua
Putnam, Charles
Parks, Robert
Parmalee, Amos
Perry, George H.
Potter, Sheldon
Pryor, Azariah
Root, Simeon
Rush, Elijah
Stanley, John
Smith, John
Steel, James
Shaw, Samuel
Sails, George
Sails, Jeremiah
Scott, Ezekiel
Sheldon, Stephen
Smith, James
Sanford, Jonah
Smith, James
Smith, Benjamin
Smith, David
Smith, Ebenezer
Satchell, William
Shifferd, Samuel
Smith, Theodoric
Shurman, ——almer
Shurman, ——dediah
Tillotson, John
Thompson, Zebulon
Tryon, Thomas
Tyler, Ashbel
Tuller, James
Thompson, James
Tuttle, Samuel
Weston, Jonathan
Willy, Bezihal
Wood, Joseph
Wright, ——omon[Solomon]
Webster, Daniel
Webster, David
Whipple, Israel
Whipple, Calvin
Wood, Thomas
Wilson, John, Jr.
Wilcox, David
Wright, Gabriel
Wright, Samuel

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